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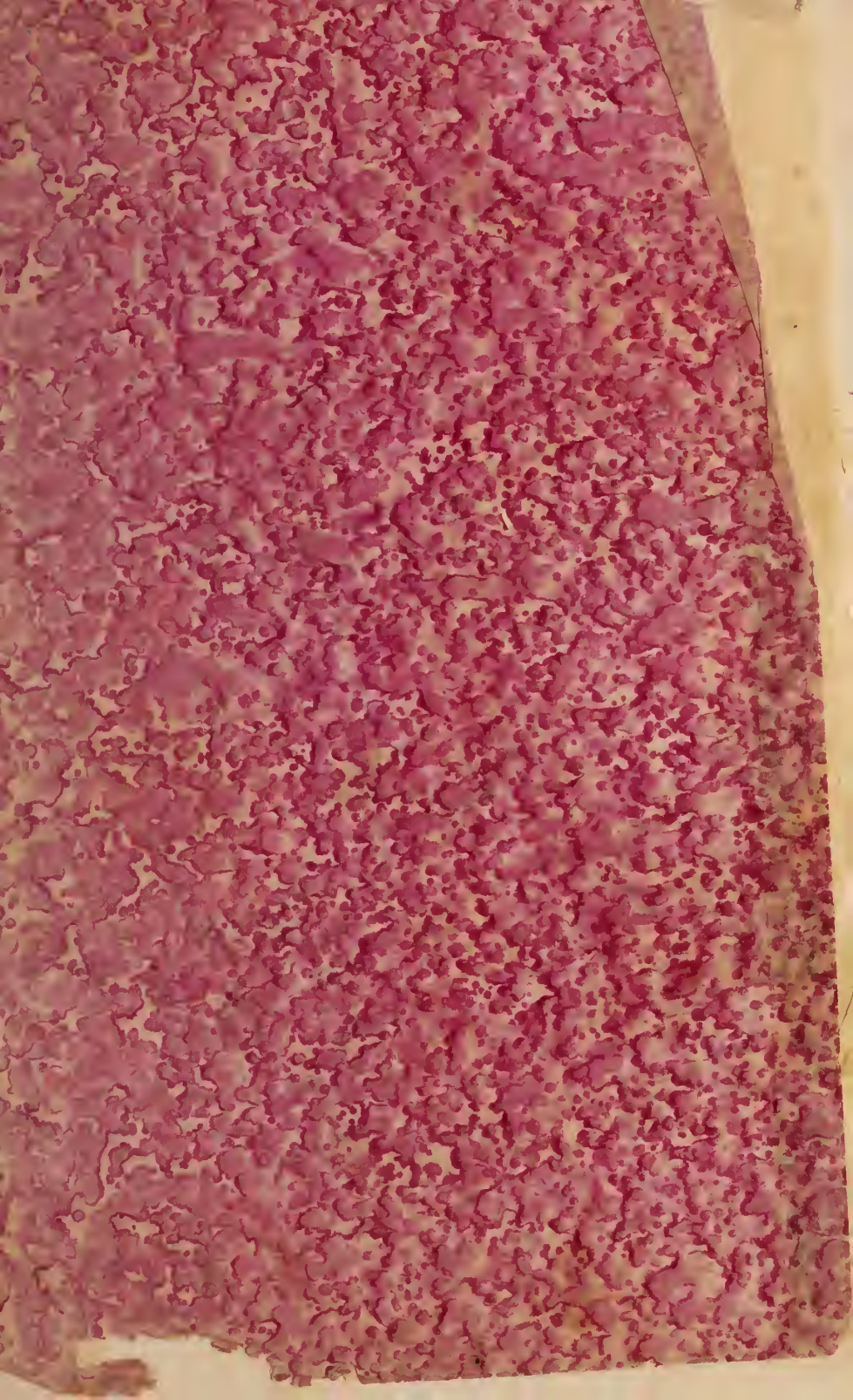
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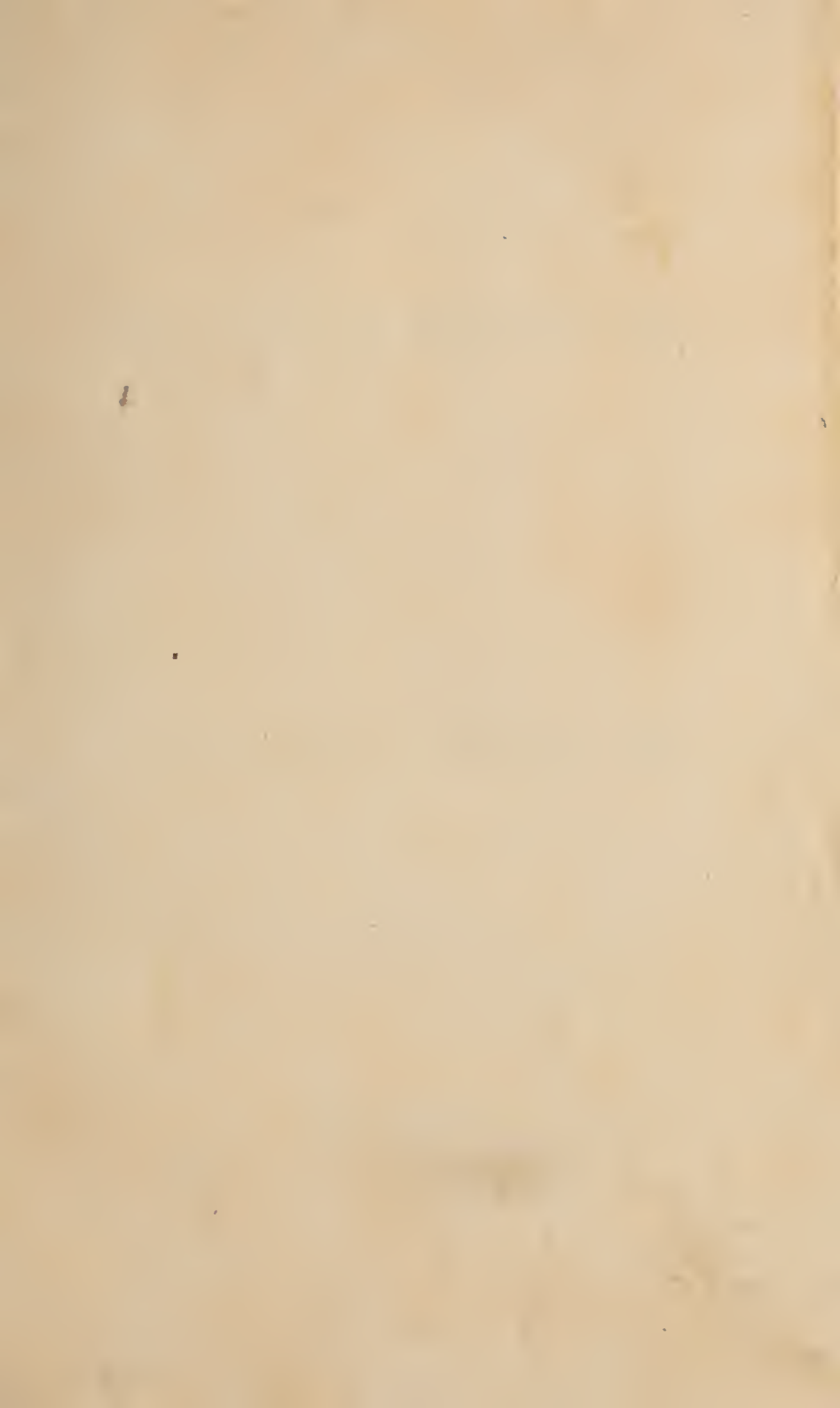
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THE

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CHINESE REPOSITORY.

VOL. XI.

FROM JANUARY TO DECEMBER, 1842.

CANTON:
PRINTED FOR THE PROPRIETORS.

.....
1842.



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CHINESE REPOSITORY.

VOL. XI.—JULY, 1842.—No. 7.

ART. I. *Retrospection, or a Review of Public Occurrences in China during the last ten years, from January 1st, 1832, to December 31st, 1841. (Continued from page 307.)*

THE year 1839 will long be memorable in the annals of foreign intercourse with China, and its occurrences referred to as the immediate causes of the great struggle now in progress. These were connected with the illegal traffic in opium. A proposition had been brought forward, the previous year, to legalize the trade in this article. But at the opening of this year, 1839, it was reported at Canton, that the party opposed to the admission of opium on payment of duty, had gained the entire ascent in the imperial councils; that Hiú Náitsí, the leader of the party advocating the legalization of the drug, had been dismissed from the public service; and that memorials, from all the provincial governments, had been laid before the Cabinet, the General Council, the imperial house, and Board of Punishments, for final consideration. The tenor of these memorials was found to be almost unanimous against the admission of opium, at the same time recommending more vigorous measures for effecting a discontinuance of its traffic, and use. Already, indeed, at Canton, measures of this kind were in progress.

A summary notice of the events of this year was published at its close, in the Repository for December. From that and the Correspondence presented to Parliament in 1840, the facts for the present retrospect are chiefly derived.

January 1st, 1839. The trade of the port of Canton was reöpened to foreigners, by command of the local government of Canton.

The trade had been stopped in consequence of the seizure of opium at Canton, belonging to Mr. Innes. With reference to this and the opening of the trade, captain Elliot thus addressed the foreign secretary, viscount Palmerston, under date of January 2d.

"I have now to inform your lordship that Mr. Innes applied to the provincial government for a passport, and left this place for Macao, on the 16th ultimo, having previously forwarded a declaration to his excellency, confessing that the opium was his; that it came from his boat, and not from the American ship; and absolving the two coolies from all willful participation in the offense, upon the ground that they were ignorant of the contents of the boxes. The difficulty which remained to be removed before the trade could be opened, was the illicit traffic in opium carried on in small craft within the river, a considerable number of which were stationary at Whampoa, receiving their supplies from time to time in other vessels of a similar description, from the opium ships at Lintin or Hongkong.

"The senior hong-merchants, on the evening of my arrival in Canton, (the 12th ultimo,) complained in bitter terms that they should be exposed to the cruel and ruinous consequences which were hourly arising out of the existence of this forced trade, not merely at Whampoa, but at the factories themselves, of which they were the proprietors; and therefore, under heavy responsibility to the government. And they insisted that they would not carry on the lawful commerce, (having the governor's sanction for their conduct,) till effectual steps were taken for the suppression of this dangerous evil. Mindful of the embarrassments which would ensue if his excellency (perceiving that all hope of interference upon my part were vain,) should effect this and far more inconvenient objects, by the immediate interruption of the ordinary manner of intercourse, and by the protracted stoppage of the trade, I felt that the moment had arrived for my own interposition. I therefore desired the merchants to proceed directly to his excellency, and announce my arrival in Canton; adding, that as no mere difficulties in points of form should deter me, in the actual emergency, from faithfully endeavoring to restore a state of peaceful trade and intercourse, so I looked at his excellency's hands for reasonable countenance: and above all, for a just and dignified abstinence from measures of irritating pressure upon the general trade.

"Carefully considering the critical posture of those momentous interests confided to me, I resolved, as a preliminary measure, upon an appeal to the whole community; not only with some hope that such a proceeding might have the effect of clearing the river of these boats, but because (if the case were otherwise) I felt it became me distinctly to forewarn her majesty's subjects concerned in these practices, of the course which it was my determination to pursue. On the 17th ultimo, therefore, I convened a general meeting of all the foreign residents at Canton in this hall, and addressed them in the manner your lordship will find reported in the accompanying note, (*See Chi. Rep.*, vol. VII., p. 452,) taken at the moment by my secretary. On the 18th, I promulgated the inclosed notice, (*See Chi. Rep.*, vol. VII., p. 453,) and having ascertained that the smuggling boats were still at Whampoa on the 23d, (some of them wearing British ensigns and pendants,) I addressed the accompanying note to his excellency the governor.*

* *See Chi. Rep.*, vol. VII., p. 455, for an extract from this communication. The

" [For] his excellency's reply, (*See Chi. Rep.*, vol. VII., p. 456.) and the next inclosure is my renewed request that this mode of direct official intercourse on affairs of importance should be declared to be general, and not for the occasion. Inclosure No. 12, is the governor's assent to this principle, signified, indeed, through the senior hong-merchant, but he was desired to place the original document, bearing his excellency's seal, in my hands, in order that I might duly authenticate the fact to my government. I was contented with this acknowledgment, and the flag was rehoisted on the 30th ultimo at 11 o'clock. On the 31st, I was enabled to desire the senior merchant to report the departure of all the boats from Whampoa; and he has this day announced to me the official commands of the government to open the trade, which I have just signified to the community. The inclosure No. 14, (*See Chi. Rep.*, vol. VII., p. 454.) is a general notice to her majesty's subjects, which I have also issued to-day, announcing the renewal of the public intercourse, and publishing those portions of my correspondence with the governor, which it concerned them to know. But I have not felt myself at liberty to publish those parts which relate to the manner of my intercourse; upon the ground that it is the special attribute of her majesty's government to dispose of that object, and that it may be highly inconvenient they should be generally promulgated without your lordship's sanction.

" Having now drawn the statement of these proceedings to a close, I may turn to a more particular explanation of the motives and the manner of my interposition. It had been clear to me, my lord, from the origin of this peculiar branch of the opium traffic, that it must grow to be more and more mischievous to every branch of the trade, and certainly to none more than to that of opium itself. As the danger and the shame of its pursuit increased, it was obvious that it would fall by rapid degrees into the hands of more and more desperate men; that its remainder of it seems necessary in order to explain captain Elliot's views regarding the word *pin*, and we take it from the Correspondence.

" He can assure your excellency that he has not requested that the communications should be forwarded through the honorable officers from any vain or idle pretensions on his own part, but only that he may be able to impress on his own countrymen, in cases of emergency, that he is acting at your excellency's requisition, that his representations may be more effectual, and that his own government may see he has had proper authority, as well as urgent occasion, for his proceedings. Neither does the undersigned desire to trouble your excellency upon trifling affairs. So soon as the intercourse is renewed, all such matters can be conducted between the official hong-merchants and himself, agreeably to your excellency's further arrangements. Influenced by motives of solicitude for the character of his countrymen, and the general protection of the interests of a good trade, the undersigned feels it right to submit his own views to your excellency of this moment; and he has therefore, used the character *pin* in the address; but he requests your excellency to signify, through the honorable officers, that it is a mode of address used by native officers, even of the second rank, so that it may be seen by the government of his own country that he has acted upon admissible principles. He can assure your excellency that there is no disposition to press inconvenient changes on the government of the empire, but only such modifications as are needful for the conduct of authentic intercourse, so that peace and honorable trade may always subsist. The undersigned, in conclusion, respectfully, but very earnestly, entreats your excellency to pardon the two coolies who were lately apprehended in the act of landing opium belonging to Mr. Innes. Clear as it is from the declaration of that gentleman, that these poor men were ignorant of the contents of the boxes, their present unhappy condition is a distressing reflection. Your excellency's clemency on this occasion would be grateful to the government of the British nation, and to the whole foreign community in China."—page 334.

would stain the foreign character with constantly aggravating disgrace, in the sight of the whole of the better portion of this people; and lastly, that it would connect itself more and more intimately with our lawful commercial intercourse, to the great peril of vast public and private interests.

"Till the other day, my lord, I believe there was no part of the world where the foreigner felt his life and property more secure than here in Canton, but the grave events of the 12th ultimo have left behind a different impression. For a space of near two hours the foreign factories were within the power of an immense and excited mob, the gate of one of them was absolutely battered in, and a pistol was fired out, probably without ball, or over the heads of the people, for at least it is certain that nobody fell. If the case had been otherwise, her majesty's government and the British public would have had to learn that the trade and peaceful intercourse with this empire was indefinitely interrupted by a terrible scene of bloodshed and ruin. And all these desperate hazards have been incurred, my lord, for the scrambling and, comparatively considered, insignificant gains of a few reckless individuals, unquestionably founding their conduct upon the belief, that they were exempt from the operation of all law, British or Chinese.

"I owe it to myself to say, that foreseeing the serious consequences which must arise from the further growth of this evil, I wrote more than a year and a half since, to the General Chamber of Commerce, moving them to use their best efforts to put it down. It is also an act of similar justice to that body, (and to the great majority of the foreign community settled here,) to state, that this peculiar form of the traffic has been practiced or countenanced by very few amongst them. But it was extending itself widely amongst persons not forming part of the resident society, and in no long lapse of time, it must have brought to Canton the refuse of all the countries in our neighborhood.

"Indeed, judging of the future from the past, I feel warranted in saying, that within the space of one year from this time, there would have been at least three hundred armed and lawless men carrying on this business in the very heart of our regular commerce. And if the extent of the mischief hourly impending, was in some sense susceptible of estimate, I must remark that no satisfactory course of remedy has ever yet presented itself to my mind. But that her majesty's government would have been driven into the necessity of very urgent, expensive, and hazardous measures upon the most painful grounds, appeared to me to be a certain result of the protraction of this forced traffic within the river, and at the factories; and with this conviction I resolved to use all lawful means in my power to draw it to a conclusion, and to prevent its recurrence.

"I should observe in this place, that the remarkable vigor, not merely of the local, but of the general government, for some months back, furnished additional causes to apprehend some exceedingly serious dilemma. And regarding the subject in every point of view, I could not but perceive that a person in my station should lose no time in taking such a position as would give weight to his representations in any moment of emergency.

"I made up my mind to incur the responsibility of making my communications under the character *pin*, because I was sensible that it was vain to hope this government would consent to give way upon such a point, so long as there was an absence of really pressing necessity; and in that situation of affairs, I am as sure the change would pass without difficulty, and probably without comment.

Indeed, I felt I could shape my own proceedings on the present occasion in such a manner as would necessarily involve the principle, that British officers should intercommunicate upon a footing of equality with native officers of the same ranks; and more than that, I am afraid it will be impossible to get from this government without driving it to extremities upon matter of form. I would also respectfully press upon your lordship the assurance that the idea of the character is that of respectful report, not of solicitation, or petition; and regard being had to the lofty tone assumed by all Asiatic powers; to the particular genius of this language and government; to its strangeness to foreign intercourse; and, above all, to the fact, that it is the manner of address used by native officers even of the third rank; I cannot but hope that I shall be excused for determining not to continue the interruption of the public communications in a moment of crisis (with the trade actually stopped, and with other serious evils impending) upon such a ground as that.

“The next point I have to notice in my own correspondence with the governor, is the request that he would command the officers who might be employed in the duty of dismissing these boats from the river, to accompany me to their ordinary place of anchorage. I advert to this subject, because it has been put prominently forward in the torrent of censure which has been poured upon me through the medium of the Canton newspapers. My lord, I requested his excellency to let the officers place themselves in communication with me, because I was not without reason to believe that some of the thoughtless people in those vessels might be contemplating the forcible opposition of the authority of this government; and I hoped that my presence in my own boat would prevent such dangerous absurdity. But assuming for a moment that they had been wild enough to do so, and life had been lost, it was my duty to take every care in my power, that the persons of British subjects (be their crime what it might) did not fall into the hands of the Chinese government; and it was further incumbent upon me to protect the property of British subjects, guiltless of those illegal practices which had induced the stoppage of the trade, from inconvenience of any description. I was also mainly influenced in this respect, by the desire to establish the general principle, that measures of an urgent nature affecting her majesty’s subjects, needed the admission of her majesty’s officers.

“The opening of this official communication, forwarded to me by the foo and hie, needs a few words of comment. These officers, it will be observed, command me to heed the governor’s edict; and I have enough of experience of the temper of this government to know, that if I had returned it upon that pretext, I should have driven them into one of those impracticable moods of offended dignity, the sure fruit of which would have been the contumelious refusal of all official communication, and an obstinate adherence to their own policy of working out their ends by measures of general pressure upon the whole trade.

“I preferred, therefore, to pass it without notice for the present, determining, on the first occasion that the governor desired to communicate with me on any important subject in the only way by which he knows such communications can reach me, to send a brief note beforehand to the officers, requesting them, for the sake of precision, to signify that they are communicating his excellency’s pleasure, and not their own. I shall at the same time take occasion to hint, that this course will obviate the disagreeable necessity which would otherwise devolve upon me, of returning the edict to his excellency for correction.

pointing out the inaccuracy, and complaining of their own unreasonable adherence to an arrogation of his excellency's authority, rather than of simple obedience to his commands. With the essential point in my hand, I felt that it would be unwise to risk its complete accomplishment by difficulties upon what I am well aware are the mere tricks of wordy assumption, so characteristic of Chinese negotiation, and which I can set to rights without hazard on some future and more favorable occasion.

"Neither did I object to receive the governor's assent to the principle, that all communications of importance must be forwarded through the officers, in an answer addressed to the senior hong-merchant; because I sincerely felt that his excellency had made as much of substantial concession for the present, as a functionary in his station could venture upon, without the express orders of his court. And after what had been gained, I perceived how necessary it was to refrain from exciting the ready feeling, that to grant anything, is only to feed the spirit of demand.

"I hope, my lord, that this attainment of direct official communication between the two countries will, on the whole, be satisfactory to her majesty's government. It is the first permanent intercourse of the kind which has ever existed between this ancient empire and the western world; and with the rule plainly admitted, and the countenance of her majesty's government, prudent and watchful officers will, I trust, find it less perplexing to improve and extend the manner, than it has been to establish it. I have, &c.

—*Corresp.* pp. 326-329.

(Signed)

"CHARLES ELLIOT."

Again, "in a private shape," on the same day, captain Elliot wrote, expressing a hope that H. B. M. government would be pleased to determine whether he had a claim to such an expression of support, as he might be permitted to publish to the queen's subjects in China. He at the same time informed his lordship that, till furnished with further instructions, he should hold it to be his duty to resist to the last, the seizure and punishment of any British subject by the Chinese, be his crime what it might.

3d. Lin, governor of Húkwáng, was appointed by the emperor, to repair to Canton, in order to stop the traffic in opium.

7th. A public meeting of foreign residents was held in Canton, for the formation of a Seamen's Friend Association.

An edict was issued by the local magistrate, admonishing all smokers of opium, at once to abandon the vile habit. Native houses were searched for the drug and the apparatus for smoking it. In consequence of these proceedings, the *people* erected gates in the streets in order to enable them first to search the person of the police-men before permitting them to begin their search.

8th. Captain Elliot wrote to his government regarding the *evils* of the co-hong—evils which thrive well in these times of disorder. The following is an extract.

"It will disquiet her majesty's government and the British commercial community connected with this country, to learn that the new assessments for the adjustment of these claims, will burden the foreign commerce with additional charges, probably not at all understated at a million of dollars per annum. As yet, however, the whole extent of taxation on this vast trade is comparatively considered moderate; but this practice of leaving the recurring claims of foreign creditors to be met by reiterated and disproportionate duties (rated solely by the native debtors) on all the principal articles of the legal trade, both outwards and in, certainly demands the serious attention of her majesty's government.

"An open trade upon our side with such an association as the co-hong on the other, must always be a very unfortunate state of things to ourselves. But at all events, even so long as that mischief subsists, I believe that the interests of this trade would be protected by the concession of what it is only a delusion, to call, the guaranty of this government for the payment of the hong debts. In its practical application, that form of words is nothing else than a device for saddling the foreign commerce with all the heavy consequences of most imprudent trading on both sides, with all the losses occasioned by incapacity, or extravagance upon the part of the hong-merchants; and if I may be pardoned for using the significant jargon of the place, with all the "squeezes" which the local government can upon any pretext fasten upon the co-hong. The eonsoo fund in fact is the fountain from which the multifarious channels of drain on the foreign trade are directly supplied. And yet with the late assistance there can be no doubt that it will leave a handsome annual surplus to be divided amongst the hong-merchants after every foreign claim, every payment to the government, just or unjust, and every expense of their respective trading establishments, are fully met.

"The mode of remedy which has suggested itself to me, is a direct application to the court on the part of her majesty's government. I would submit that the altered state of circumstances on our side should be plainly explained, and that a request should be made for the very considerable extension of the number of persons licensed to trade with us: her majesty's government upon its part consenting to give up all direct claim upon the Chinese government for the future payment of foreign debts on a single condition, namely, that special orders should be issued by the emperor to the authorities at Canton to apprehend and punish any native debtors who attempted to defraud their foreign creditors. A change of this nature would immediately induce a cautious adherence to safe principles of trade on both sides; and hence that confidence arising from attentive observation of each other's means and prudence, which has been found to be the best support of commercial stability in all parts of the world. It may be possible indeed that some few cases of successful fraud might happen, but I perceive no reason to believe that they would be more easy or frequent on the side of the Chinese, than our own.

"Indeed, the more natural and healthy consequence would be to adjust the trade on their side into those convenient proportions, limited by men's interest, and therefore acute judgment, of the extent to which it would be prudent or profitable to do business with each other. The establishment of some simple but efficacious civil jurisdiction would no doubt be a necessary accompaniment of this change of system, and your lordship may, I think, rely that the Chinese would readily refer all contested points with her majesty's subjects to this tribu-

nal, either placing the disputed sum in deposit, or at least giving security that it should be paid, if the decision were adverse to them.

"I offer these opinions, because I am sure the Chinese have great confidence in the good faith of the Europeans, and because too I believe they are, in many important respects, the most moderate and reasonable people on the face of the earth. Seeking nothing but justice (and no people are more capable of clear perceptions upon the reality of what they receive under that name), I am persuaded that they will have the good sense, for the sake of mutual convenience, to take it at our hands; regarding, indeed the form under which it is administered to them, with feelings of perfect indifference. I would, in conclusion, beg your lordship to remark that these views upon the extreme mischief of the actual mode of settling foreign claims are neither novel, nor peculiar to myself. In the year 1779, when captain Panton, of the *Sea-Horse*, came to China by the order of sir Edward Vernon, for the recovery of debts due to certain British creditors, I find the supracargoes clearly predicting the institution of this consoo tax, and all the evil consequences, both immediate and prospective, which must ensue.

"By such a mode," say they, "and we think by such a mode only, an annual sum may be funded to discharge so much of the present debt as the officers shall decree to be just." When captain Panton declined to correspond with them on the subject, they protested against sir Edward Vernon and himself for all losses, &c., &c., which his proceedings might occasion; and the result of his interference verified their worst apprehensions, for in the next year the consoo system was established to the great and lasting injury of this trade.

"Throughout the subsequent course of the Company's monopoly, their servants here on the several occasions of embarrassment amongst the hong-merchants, put forward the same just arguments, and her majesty's government will readily admit, that if the system were dangerous to the interests of the East India Company, it must be intensely more so to those of the general and open trade. The agents upon the spot will always and naturally be anxious to have their immediate difficulties solved; and the future consequences of our permanent commercial interests in this empire are little likely to bear down that consideration. I shall transmit your lordship an authentic statement of the new assessments as soon as it can be procured; and in the meantime, I once more take the liberty to recommend this subject to the earnest attention of her majesty's government.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

"CHARLES ELLIOT."

—*Corresp.* pp. 304-342.

10th. An edict was issued by the governor, against ships bringing opium to Whampoa, and declaring that if they did so they would be sent back to their own country. Another edict came out from the governor, commanding the hong-merchants to secure sundry vessels then at Whampoa.

14th. The co-hong paid the first dividend, of four per cent., on the debts of Kingqua, to the foreign creditors of that hong.

16th. A new form of bond was proposed by the hong-merchants to the Chamber of Commerce, to prevent the smuggling of opium and sycee.

22d. Several European passage-boats were licensed to run be-

tween Canton and Macao, for the purpose of conveying letters and passengers.

23d. A dispatch was received by the governor from the Board of War, giving conveyance to an imperial edict, of the 3d, respecting the new commissioner.

A proclamation was addressed to foreigners by the governor and lieutenant-governor, giving notice of the approach of a special commissioner, and urging the *immediate removal* of all the opium and store-ships from the Chinese waters, threatening a stoppage of the trade in the case of non-compliance.

27th. A regulation that the debts of one hong-merchant to foreigners shall not exceed a hundred thousand taels, was ordered, by the local authorities, to be engraven on stone, and kept in everlasting remembrance.

30th. Under this date, captain Elliot wrote the following observations with reference to the then approaching tempest, which had long been gathering in the north.

“The stagnation of the opium traffic at all points, however, may be said to have been nearly complete for the last four months. And it is now my duty to signify to your lordship the expected arrival of a very high officer from the court, of equal rank with the governor, and specially charged, as I am this day informed by Howqua, with the general conduct of the measures lately determined upon at Peking, for the suppression of the opium trade. It must also be stated, that the emperor has recently been advised to command a total interruption of the foreign trade and intercourse, till the introduction of opium shall be effectually stopped; and an edict of great moment, evidently founded upon that policy, has just been issued to the foreign merchants, but not yet to myself. It shall be transmitted to your lordship as soon as Mr. Morrison has translated it; but it is probable the communication will not be sent officially to me till the arrival of the high commissioner from Peking, which may be expected in the course of a few weeks.

“There seems, my lord, no longer any room to doubt that the court has firmly determined to suppress, or, more probably, most extensively to check the opium trade. The immense, and it must be said, most unfortunate increase of the supply during the last four years, the rapid growth of the east coast trade, and the continued drain of the silver, have no doubt greatly alarmed the government; but the manner of the rash course of traffic within the river, has probably contributed most of all to impress the urgent necessity of arresting the growing audacity of the foreign smugglers, and preventing their associating themselves with the desperate and lawless of their own large cities. In the excited temper of this extraordinary government, it would be unsafe indeed, to speculate upon the particular means they may pursue; but, at least, I am sure that my own altered position, and the course I took last month, with respect to the forced trade within the river, will give much weight to my remonstrances, in any movement of emergency.

“Replying to Howqua’s suggestions to-day, that such proceedings must be look-

ed for, I said, I earnestly hope not, because I was persuaded they would be regarded by my own government to be unjust and hostile in the very last degree. I added, that I should be careful to clear myself of all responsibility, by signifying these convictions to the provincial government, in respectful, but most plain terms, directly that it adopted courses so certain, in my judgment, to tend to an interruption of the peace between the two countries. He met this observation by saying, that I had experience enough of the Chinese government to know that full time would be given before such extreme measures were adopted. I answered, that the lapse of no interval of time could justify aggression upon public and private interests embarked in this lawful trade, by reason of the acts of smugglers, in a high degree encouraged by the chief authorities of these provinces.

“He dwelt earnestly upon the manifold mischiefs of the trade, and particularly upon the alarming character of the late inside traffic, asking me what my government would do under such circumstances? I said, that no such state of things could obtain in England, and he must give me leave to remark three things concerning that part of the subject;—1st, that it no longer subsisted; 2d, that it had been induced by the venality of the highest officers of this province; 3d, that it had been put down by the effect of my representations and proceedings, as soon as ever I was in a condition to take steps concerning it.

“Whilst such a traffic existed, indeed, in the heart of our regular commerce, I had all along felt the Chinese government had a just ground for harsh measures towards the lawful trade, upon the plea that there was no distinguishing between the right and the wrong. But I told Howqua, that should never happen again so long as the governor enabled me to perform my duty; and it could not have happened at all, but for his excellency’s countenance. I concluded by saying, that I had too much confidence in the justice and wisdom of his government, to apprehend such measures as he appeared to do, and too much experience of the genius of my own, to doubt that their adoption would be the sure precursor of a rupture. He anxiously intreated me to press, in my dispatches to my government, on the great and growing danger of this traffic to the lawful trade and peaceful intercourse; and he led me to understand, that some strong official communication on the subject must be expected as soon as the high commissioner arrived. The immediate departure of this ship will be my excuse for a hurried dispatch.

I have, &c.,

—*Corresp.* pp. 343-344.

(Signed)

“CHARLES ELLIOT.”

February 1st. All the back doors of the foreign factories were ordered to be blocked up.

4th. Rules and regulations were promulgated by the British chief superintendent for the establishment of a maritime police in the Chinese waters.

A document was published “on the best mode of arresting the opium plague,” written by Chau Tientseo, superintendent of the transport of grain.

A dividend of three per cent. was paid on Hingtæ’s debts, making the total hitherto paid amount to seven per cent.

3d. The schooner Attaran, capt. Jackson, was lost near the island Nanpang, a few miles westward of Macao, with 130 chests of opium

16th. A coroner's inquest was held, by the magistrate of Nánhái, at the Ophthalmic Hospital in Canton, respecting the death of a Chinese.

26th. A Chinese, accused of trafficking in opium, was strangled in front of the foreign factories. All the foreign flags thereupon ceased to be hoisted.

28th. A request was made by the British merchants to their superintendents of trade, to detain H. M. sloop Larne, in the Chinese waters.

March 2d. Captain Elliot intimated to Mr. Bell and others, H. B. M.'s subjects, that it was not his intention to hoist the British flag at Canton, and that he had already moved captain Blake, of H. B. M. sloop Larne to remain in China.

4th. Captain Elliot addressed to her Britannic majesty's subjects the following

CIRCULAR.

"The execution of a criminal in this square, on the 26th ultimo, renders it the duty of the undersigned to submit a few remarks to her majesty's subjects. In his own judgment, the purpose of this most humiliating event was not only to intimidate, but to degrade, and render hateful, the whole foreign community in the sight of the native population. Neither can he doubt that its tacit admission would lead to still graver passages. Her majesty's subjects may be assured that he will not fail to lay these convictions before the right honorable the secretary of state for foreign affairs. Impressed by the persuasion, however, that the recurrence of such an outrage would lead to some sudden and deplorable catastrophe, he finds it necessary to make an immediate communication to the governor. But he has been careful to leave the treatment of the late event to the unembarrassed disposal of his own and the other western governments, whose flags have been subsequently lowered. He considers it due to his countrymen to promulgate a copy of his address to the governor on this occasion.

—*Corresp.* p. 360.

(Signed)

"CHARLES ELLIOT."

For the address from captain Elliot to his excellency the governor, see *Chi. Rep.*, vol VII., p. 607.

7th. The British chief superintendent requests all British owned passage boats, not having licenses, immediately to proceed outside of the Bogue, and not return within the same.

9th. Under this date, captain Elliot addressed another circular to the British residents in Canton. Vol. VII., p. 607.

10th. Lin Tsihsii, the imperial commissioner, made his entrance into Canton, and took up his residence in one of the collegiate halls.

11th. A European boat, belonging to the British ship St. Vincent at Whámpoa, on her way from Canton to the ship, was run down by a Chinese lighter, and nine of the crew lost.

12th. Whether any reply was ever received by captain Elliot to the following address of his to the governor, we do not know.

"The undersigned, &c., &c., being on the point of communicating with the government of his nation, and the high officers of the government of India, and the chief in command of the naval forces, and having his mind agitated by many doubts and fears, has once more to address your excellency upon the subject of his address of the 14th instant. It is his duty to lay before your excellency his strong conviction that the government of his nation will regard the unprecedented execution of a criminal before the foreign dwelling-houses, to be an outrage upon the feelings and dignity of all the western governments whose flags were recently flying at Canton. And for the sake of that peace and goodwill which has subsisted for one hundred and several tens of years, the undersigned has again respectfully and anxiously to request that your excellency will be pleased to forward him a calming declaration through the honorable officers, in order that he may report to the high officers of his own nation, the needlessness of immediate and direct appeals to the great emperor for protection. The cruizer of his nation is detained for your excellency's reply, and the undersigned having received the same, will immediately make the necessary statement, and she will then sail away.

(Signed)

"CHARLES ELLIOT."

—*Corresp.*, p. 362.

18th. Two edicts were issued by the commissioner—one to the hong-merchants, and the other to the foreigners: the latter requiring, 'every particle of the opium in the store-ships' to be delivered up to government, and bonds given that they will never again bring any more on penalty of death, and promising in case of compliance a remission of the past, and the continuance of commerce. The term of three days was given for a reply. For these two edicts, see Chinese Repository, vol. VII., page 610 and sequel.

19th. By an edict from the hoppo, addressed to the hong-merchants, all foreigners were forbidden to go to Macao.

One of the licensed passage-boats, the Snipe, was stopped at the Bogue on a charge of smuggling, and brought back to Canton. She was afterwards broken up.

21st. All communication with Whampoa was stopped, and troops assembled on the river and in the suburbs near the factories. The Chamber of Commerce assembled, and 1037 chests were tendered for surrender.

22d. Mr. L. Dent was invited to go to the city-gates to meet the commissioner. By circular from captain Elliot at Macao, all British ships were ordered to rendezvous at Hongkong, and put themselves in a posture of defense immediately.

Under this same date (the 22d), captain Elliot addressed the following note to the governor of Canton, and sent a copy of the same

to the sub-prefect at Macao: it was believed by captain Elliot that both were received. That it ever reached the governor we doubt.

"The undersigned, &c., &c., seriously disturbed by the unusual assemblage of troops, ships of war, fire-vessels, and other menacing preparations, and, above all, by the unprecedented and unexplained measure of an execution before the factories at Canton, to the destruction of all confidence in the just and moderate dispositions of the provincial authorities, has now the honor to demand, in the name of the sovereign of his nation, whether it is the purpose of his excellency the governor to make war upon the men and ships of his nation in this empire?

"He claims immediate and calming assurances upon this subject: and he has at the same time to declare his readiness to meet the officers of the provincial government, and to use his sincere efforts to fulfill the pleasure of the great emperor, as soon as it is made known to him.

—*Corresp.* p. 362.

(Signed)

"CHARLES ELLIOT."

23d. The proceedings of this day are thus given in the Correspondence, written by the secretary to the superintendents.

"This day at 10 A. M., the hong-merchants repaired to the house of Mr. Dent, Howqua senior and mandarin Mowqua appearing with iron chains round their necks, and also with the further degradation of being deprived of their buttons of rank. Howqua's son, Mowqua, and Gowqua, were also degraded and cast into prison. The visit to Mr. Dent was by the express order of the high commissioner, to command Mr. Dent to go into the city immediately, that he might be confronted with his excellency. The majority of the foreign community had already assembled at Mr. Dent's, and it was deemed most advisable, that they should collect in a separate room from the hong-merchants, and that the following question should be put to them: Shall Mr. Dent comply with the commands of the commissioner or not?

"It was unanimously carried, that Mr. Dent should not comply, unless under the written and sealed guaranty that he should be treated with respect, and also that he should be permitted to return home after the conference. This decision was conveyed to the hong-merchants. They said that Howqua and mandarin Mowqua would lose their heads if Mr. Dent did not comply with the commands from the commissioner, and that they could not venture to apply for the required guaranty. After considerable delay, a deputation of foreigners, accompanied by linguists, proceeded to the consoo house, to explain to the Kwángchau fú, and other officers, the objection the community had to allowing Mr. Dent to comply with the commands in question. Upon these objections being made known, the Kwángchau fú requested an officer belonging to the high commissioner's suite, with the Nánháí, and an officer from the hoppo's office, to repair and again deliver the commands to Mr. Dent, and to admonish him, in the presence of the foreigners, on the necessity of obeying. This summons being now officially and directly made to Mr. Dent, it was thought advisable once more to solicit the opinion of the community, when the same unanimous feeling prevailed, that Mr. Dent should not go into the city, unless with a special sealed guaranty from the high commissioner. This determination being repeated to these three officers, they declared and called heaven to witness, that they would safely conduct and bring back Mr. Dent. The irresponsibility of these officers was taken into considera-

tion, and the community still adhered to their determination. The officers were left in a room consulting together, and after a lapse of a few minutes, they expressed a wish to see Mr. Dent once more, when the officer belonging to the commissioner's suite spoke for a very considerable time, giving his assurance in every way, and pledging his own word, for the safety of Mr. Dent's return. All these assurances were of no avail; and after Mr. Dent had expressed his regret that a further time could not be allowed for the arrangement of so important a question as the one on hand, he withdrew from the presence of the officers. It was now most distinctly affirmed by the officers, that they could not quit the house without they took Mr. Dent, and that they must use force to compel him to go. Waiting, however, for about half a hour, and finding Mr. Dent would not go, they wished to conduct a deputation of foreigners to the presence of the Kwángchau fú, at the consoo house, that they might state to that officer, upon what conditions Mr. Dent would comply with the commands. Many gentlemen accompanied these officers, and distinctly stated to the Kwángchau fú what the whole foreign community required. All the officers at the consoo house said that they could not obtain or even ask his excellency for a guaranty, but they all expressed a request that Mr. Morrison should accompany them to the city: this request was instantly denied: because Mr. Morrison had already been detained for about an hour against his will, in the consoo house, in the forenoon of this day, and was liberated by the deputy superintendent and the secretary to the superintendents. And it was strongly suspected that he was to be kept as a hostage for Mr. Dent.

“Mr. Inglis proposed that three other gentlemen, with himself, should be allowed to accompany the Kwángchau fú into the city: this was instantly conceded, and Messrs. Inglis, Thom, Slade, and Fearon were to form the party; they were conducted through the back door of the consoo house, entered the Chuklan gate, walked up the street, and took the first turning on the right, and soon passed the viceroy's palace; and after turning on the left, they drew up and were taken into the temple dedicated to the Queen of Heaven (tien hau kung). The Kwángchau fú had already arrived at this temple. He put these gentlemen in charge of the hong-merchants, and went to report to the high commissioner; during his absence, these gentlemen were shown to a very pretty part of the temple, and introduced to priests, who treated them kindly with sweetmeats, tea, &c. After great delay, the noise of gongs and shouting, intimated the approach of the following officers:—Púching sz', or financial commissioner; Anchá sz', or judicial commissioner; Yenyun sz', or salt commissioner; and Liángtau, or grain commissioner. These officers took their respective seats in a line, but leaving the Kwángchau fú, and weiyuen, or a deputed officer, to sit on a bench in another part of the hall, evidently as if they were of too inferior degree to sit on a level with the former officers. All forms of etiquette, &c., being arranged, Mr. Thom was ushered by the head linguist into the presence of these officers, and the following questions put to him direct. ‘What is your name? What country do you belong to? &c., &c. Why does Mr. Dent not come?’

“Mr. Thom said that all foreigners thought Mr. Dent would be detained, and therefore they would not allow him to come. Detain him or not detain him, he is guilty of showing the greatest disrespect for not obeying the commands from the high commissioner,—was the reply. Here Mr. Thom begged to say, that Mr. Dent had not the most distant intention of showing any disrespect; that this question was one of the utmost importance; that Mr. Dent and his countrymen were all

of opinion, and under the apprehension, that the high commissioner wished to detain Mr. Dent until a certain quantity of opium be confiscated, as they had heard it reported, the high commissioner imagined Mr. Dent had 6000 chests of opium.

"The Anchá sz' replied, that this is no report, but a certainty; that the high commissioner's eyes are very sharp, and his ears very long; that he knows Dent to be a very great merchant, and a very large capitalist, and that he had resided in China many years; that the high commissioner held positive and explicit orders from the emperor to put down the opium trade, and that he was possessed of powers quite unlimited and extraordinary, and that he wished to admonish Mr. Dent, and also to inquire into the nature of his business; that Mr. Dent must be confronted with the high commissioner; that if he did not consent, he should be dragged out of his house by force; and consequently, the high commissioner would most assuredly kill him. One of the officers remarked, that if Dent would willingly come and see the commissioner, the trade would be reöpened.

"Similar questions to the above were put to the other gentlemen, but through one of the linguists; this mode of interruption is always very confused, and causes so much misunderstanding, that the examinations are better omitted. After a detention of about three hours, the whole party returned under the escort of an officer.

(Signed)

EDWARD ELSLIE."

—*Corresp.* pp. 365-367.

Under this date, the 23d, captain Elliot addressed the following letter to P. J. Blake, esq., commander of her majesty's sloop Larne.

"Sir,—The various and unreserved conferences I have had the honor to have with you, on the present extremely disquieting state of circumstances, preclude the necessity of recapitulating the reasons which compel me to proceed forthwith to Whampoa for the relief of her majesty's subjects from their actual restrained and dangerous situation. And if you shall not hear from me in some certain and assuring manner, within the space of six days from the date of this communication, I trust that you will proceed in her majesty's sloop under your command, to the Bocca Tigris, and, failing such authentic accounts of the safety and free agency of all her majesty's subjects within those forts, from the Chinese admiral, as may be satisfactory to you; I must beg you will consider us to be prisoners, and adopt such immediate proceedings for our relief as may seem suitable to you.

"Cordially assenting with me in the propriety of avoiding any unnecessary or ostensible intercourse with the British shipping at the outside anchorages (many of which have no doubt been engaged in the illicit traffic) it is at the same time most satisfactory to me to reflect, that in the event of any well-sustained evidence of aggressive attempts, British life and property will have the benefit of all the protection and countenance which you can afford. In touching this delicate and difficult subject, I should perhaps again remind you, that most of the ships engaged in the regular trade, are accustomed to anchor at the usual outside stations, both upon arriving and putting to sea. I hold it my duty to you to state that I shall willingly take the full responsibility of any proceedings you may find it necessary to adopt on account of these requisitions. And it is a great support to me in any embarrassing circumstances, that I have the assistance of an officer in whose zeal and ability I may justly repose entire confidence. I have, &c.,

—*Corresp.* pp. 364-365.

(Signed)

"CHARLES ELLIOT."

24th. At sunset, captain Elliot arrived in Canton, and immediately hoisted the British flag, and conducted Mr. Dent to his own consular hall, at which place he summoned a public meeting. All natives were withdrawn. Provisions stopped; and a triple cordon of boats placed in front of the factories. Captain Elliot demands passports.

25th. The foreign merchants pledged themselves "not to deal in opium, nor to attempt to introduce it into the Chinese empire."

Under this date captain Elliot addressed the two following letters to the governor.

"Elliot, &c., moved by urgent considerations affecting the safety of the lives and property of all the men of his nation, and the maintenance of the peace between the two countries, respectfully claims passports for all the English ships and people at Canton, within the space of three days that this application reaches your excellency's hands; so that they may all be set at liberty, and depart outside in peace, with their property, within ten days after the passports are issued. And Elliot further requests that your excellency will be pleased to grant them boats for the removal of their persons and property, with guards to protect them from the violence of the lower orders. And if Elliot shall not hear that the passports are granted within the space of three days from the date that this application reaches your excellency's hands, he will be reluctantly driven to the conclusion, that the men and ships of his country are forcibly detained, and act accordingly. Elliot cannot conceal from your excellency his deep and sorrowful conviction, that the peace between the two countries is placed in imminent jeopardy by the late unexplained and alarming proceedings of this government. And in the name of the sovereign of his nation, he declares himself free from the responsibility of all the consequences that may arise.

—*Corresp.* p. 367.

(Signed)

"CHARLES ELLIOT."

"Elliot, &c., sincerely anxious to fulfill the pleasure of the great emperor, as far as it may be in his power, and as soon as it is authentically made known to him, respectfully requests that your excellency will be pleased to depute an officer to visit him this day, to the end that all matters may be peacefully adjusted. And if Elliot is left at liberty to communicate with the men and ships of his nation at Whampoa, he will solemnly pledge himself that he will take care that they do not repair to the provincial city under the apprehension that he and all the people of his nation are prisoners and without food, thus producing conflict and disturbance.

"Elliot therefore moves your excellency to let the native servants return to their occupation, to permit the supply of provisions, and to remove all the barriers from before the factories. By such means, confidence and tranquillity will be restored in the minds of all men, both native and foreign. Elliot has in all respects, since he filled the station of superintendent, manifested his earnest desire to keep the peace, and fulfill the pleasure of your excellency; and, as an officer of his country, he now asks for reasonable treatment for himself and all the men of his nation, and claims your excellency's confidence in his peaceful disposition on this occasion of perilous jeopardy. It may sometimes happen, when Elliot addresses your excellency concerning affairs, that unsuitable terms find place in

his communications; and whenever that be the case, he intreats your excellency to believe that the circumstance is attributable to the want of perfect familiarity with the native language, and never to any intention to manifest disrespect to the high officers of this government, which would expose him to the severe displeasure of his own sovereign.

"And he has now to request that your excellency will be pleased to return him the address he submitted this morning. With highest consideration, &c.,
—*Corresp.* pp. 367-368. (Signed) "CHARLES ELLIOT."

On the same day a reply was given, through the principal officers of the department of Canton.

Chú, prefect of the department of Kwángchan, and Han, commandant of the same department, issue commands to the English superintendent, Elliot, for his full information. They have received the within official injunction from the high imperial commissioner and governor of Húkwáng, his excellency Lin:

"I have received from Tang, the governor of the two Kwáng, the following communication:

"On the 25th of March, 1839, at 1 A. M., the English superintendent, Elliot, addressed me in the following terms:—(*Quoted verbatim as on the opposite page.*)

"This address having duly come before me the governor, I have given it my consideration. I find that the foreigners of the nation aforesaid have in their commercial intercourse with Kwángtung, long enjoyed gratifying advantages; but that they have brought opium—that pervading poison—to this land: thus profiting themselves by the injury of others. That the great emperor has now been pleased to give to your excellency a special commission to repair hither and make inquiry, and act in this matter. And that, as high imperial commissioner, you issued an edict, promising not to go back into the past, but only requiring that the opium already here should be entirely delivered up; that the opium to come should be effectually stopped from coming; and that they should then be enabled to continue their trade as usual. These commands, on the 18th of March last past, all the hong-merchants were required to repair to the factories and enjoin a term of three days being prescribed within which to give a reply. Upon the 22d, there was yet no reply. This was conduct highly disobedient and procrastinating. Your excellency, the high commissioner, had ascertained that the opium brought by Dent was comparatively in large quantity, and summoned him to be examined. He, too, procrastinated for three days, and has not at all obeyed your commands by appearing. In consequence hereof, and in accordance with established precedents, a temporary embargo was placed on the trade, and the requesting of permits to go to Macao was stayed.

"In perusing now the address of the said superintendent, I find no clear statement of the circumstances from first to last, but an instant application for the granting of passports. I would ask, while commands remain unanswered, summonses unattended, how I, the governor, can, regardless of the commands given by the high imperial commissioner, at once write out and give passports?

"In regard to the style of the address, there is much that cannot be understood. Thus, for instance, the words 'the two countries,' I know not the meaning of. While our celestial court has in humble submission to it ten thousand (i. e. all) regions, and the heaven-like goodness of the great emperor overshadows all the nation aforesaid and the Americans have, by their trade at Canton during

many years, enjoyed, of all those in subjection, the largest measure of favors. And I presume it must be England and America, that are conjointly named 'the two countries.' But the meaning of the language is greatly wanting in perspicuity.

"It is most requisite that, in obedience to the commands of you, the high imperial commissioner, the opium laid up on board the store-ships should at once be delivered up to government, when of course immediate permission will be accorded to apply for permits for the men and vessels of the said nation to come and go; and assuredly there shall be no causeless obstruction and delay.

"Besides commanding the original merchants, Wúttun Yuen (Howqua senior) and his fellows, to join commands on the said superintendent for his obedience; besides too, instructing the territorial and financial commissioner of Kwángtung, in concert with the judicial commissioner, to give all the needful commands, it is also my duty to communicate with the high imperial commissioner, desiring to give him the trouble to examine and cause measures to be taken accordingly."

"Upon this communication being duly received by me, the commissioner, I proceed forthwith to give injunctions requiring obedience. When these injunctions reach the prefect and other aforementioned, let them immediately issue commands, requiring that obedience be paid without fail."

They, the prefect and commandant, having respectfully received the above, proceed forthwith to issue commands. When these reach the said superintendent Elliot, let him immediately act in obedience to them, and speedily take the opium laid up on board the store-ships, and at once deliver it up to government. Then of course immediate permission will be accorded to apply for permits for the men and vessels of his nation to come and go; and assuredly there shall be no causeless obstruction and delay. Be there no opposition to these special commands. March 25th, 1839.—*Corresp.* pp. 368-369.

26th. A new proclamation was issued by the commissioner, urging four reasons for the immediate surrender of the opium. *Chi. Rep.*, vol. VII., p. 628.

Under the same date, the prefect of Canton, and the other associates with him, made two following communications to captain Elliot.

No I.

Chú, by special appointment, prefect of Kwángchau, taking with him Liú, the magistrate of Nánhái district, and Cháng, the magistrate of Pwányü district, issues commands to the English superintendent, Elliot, for his full information.

On the 25th March, 1839, he received the within official injunction from his excellency Tang, governor of the two Kwáng.

"Upon the 25th March, 1839, I received from Lin, the high imperial commissioner and governor of Húkwáng, a communication of the following tenor:—"I received on the 25th March, 1839, at from 1 to 3 A. M., your excellency's communication of the following tenor:—(Quoted verbatim from page 360.)

"Upon the receipt hereof, I have given the subject my consideration. Elliot having come as English superintendent into the territory of the celestial court, how ought he implicitly to obey the laws? But his country, while it interdicts the use of opium, has yet permitted the seduction and enticement of the Chinese people. The store-ships have been long anchored in the waters of Kwángtung,

yet he has been unable to expel them, or by prohibitions to stay their proceedings. I would ask what it is then that Elliot superintends?

“Of my special mission by the great emperor, as his commissioner in this province, for inquiring and acting in regard to opium, how can the said superintendent be ignorant? And when, after my arrival here, in place of taking the foreigners who dealt in opium, and subjecting them to the punishment due by the laws, I turned to issue to them, an edict, giving them the option to deliver up their opium, and put a full stop to its future ingress, how could he remain unaware of this act of kindness beyond the bounds of laws? Yet in this address, not one word has he said in reference hereto; assuming the false garb of stupid ignorance. But has he not failed indeed to consider, that he, the said superintendent, having come from Macao to Canton, cannot keep himself aloof from this matter? The unintelligibility of the style of his address, it is not worth while minutely to discuss. Nor is it necessary that I should reiterate the commands which I have already given.

“I have now merely to lay on Elliot the responsibility of speedily and securely arranging these matters, the delivery of the opium, and the giving of bonds in obedience to my former commands. If he can take the opium on board the store-ships, and at once deliver it up entirely, it will of course be the duty of me, the commissioner, to give him encouragement and stimulus to exertion.

“Or if he have aught that he would say in the way of intreaty, he is permitted to make a clear statement thereof. If there be really nothing therein inconsistent with the principles of reason, in my equal maintenance of perfect justice, how can I, the commissioner, be willing in the least to oppress? But if he speak not according to reason, and imagine, amid the darkness of night, to abscond with his men, it will show the conviction within him that he can have no face to encounter his fellow-men, and can he be able to escape the meshes of the vast and wide net of heaven? Having received your excellency’s communication as above, it befits me to communicate with you in reply, that you may, upon due examination, direct the territorial and financial commissioner, and the judicial commissioner, with the prefect of Kwángchau fú, to join commands upon the said superintendent, for his implicit obedience.”

“I, the governor, having received the above communication, proceed to give this injunction, enjoining the prefect that he instantly take with him the two magistrates of Nánháí and Pwányü; and in obedience to the matter contained in the communication from the high imperial commissioner, proceed to impress on the said superintendent Elliot the commands, that they may be without fail obeyed.”

He (the Kwángchau fú) having received this, forthwith issues commands. When they reach the said superintendent Elliot, let him pay immediate obedience. Be there no opposition to these special commands. March 26th, 1839.

No. 2.

Chú, by special appointment, prefect of Kwángchau, taking with him Liú, the magistrate of Nánháí, and Cháng, the magistrate of Pwányü, issues commands to the English superintendent Elliot, for his full information.

“On the 26th March, 1839, he received the within official injunction from his excellency Tang, governor of the two Kwáng:

“Upon the 26th March, 1839, I received from Lin, the high imperial commissioner and governor of Húkwáng, a communication of the following tenor:—

“I received on the 26th March, 1839, between 5 and 7 A. M., your excellency's communication to me of the following tenor:—

“That the English superintendent, Elliot, having come up to Canton on the 24th, had a foreign address ready and presented, at 1 A. M. on the 25th; that a clear and plain reply had been given to it, and the particulars communicated to me, as appears explicitly on record; that now, between 1 and 3 P. M., another prepared address has been presented, the requests contained in which are all found difficult to be at present granted; and that it has appeared right to send for my examination the foreign addresses, that commands may be given in reply.

“Upon the receipt hereof, I have given the subject my consideration. The said superintendent, Elliot, requests, I find, that an officer may be deputed to enable him clearly and minutely to state matters. These words seem somewhat reasonable. But how then is it that this day, from 7 till 5, when I had sent several times, Chú the prefect of Kwángchau fú, Yü the prefect expectant, Liú the sub-prefect of Fukáng, Liú the magistrate of Nánhái, and Cháng the magistrate of Pwányú, who jointly repaired to the consoo house of the hong-merchants, waiting for the said foreigner, in order to express to him commands; and when the territorial and financial commissioner, and the judicial commissioner, also both went to the new city to await information: nevertheless, the foreigners all remained in concealment, not one appearing; and the said superintendent Elliot also did not even to the last show himself? What kind of conduct is this?

“I find that foreigners, by dealing in opium, have long infringed the laws. I, the high commissioner, having received the imperial commands to repair to Kwángtung in order to make inquiry and to act, cannot bear to destroy ere I have instructed. Therefore did I first issue an edict, requiring the delivery up of the opium. This was a measure of indulgence beyond the bounds of law. Had the said superintendent one glimpse of light, how ought he to have been roused by gratitude speedily to act? But whereas, before Elliot came to Canton, I heard that all the foreigners verbally expressed their readiness to deliver up opium, and only failed to state the true amount; and even Dent, although having the conviction that he had been long in the habit of dealing in opium, he ventured not at once to appear before the officers, yet neither did he venture to abscond; whereas, I say, this was before the case, no sooner had Elliot come to Canton, on the evening of the 24th, than he wished to lead off Dent to abscond, with the view of preventing the determination in regard to the delivery of the opium. Had not the precautionary measures been most strict and complete, almost had the hare escaped, the wolf run off. Elliot's conduct being thus exactly the same as that of an artful schemer, can he yet be regarded fit for the office of superintendent?

“And while confusedly presenting to your excellency the governor two addresses in one day, he makes not one word of reference to the inquiries now being made for the prevention of opium, or to the orders that have been given to deliver it up, just as though there was a causeless and vexatious detention. This only he has failed to consider, that had he really indeed been ready to command clearly all the foreigners to deliver up the opium in obedience to the commands given, should not I, the commissioner, have then praised and encouraged him greatly? Or had he even abstained from giving such clear commands, yet if he had not proceeded to work upon and seduce the minds of all, to induce them to abscond, should I in that case have indeed taken the step of withdrawing the

compradors, and making inquiry regarding the vessel he came in? At this time, the offense of contumacious resistance and opposition is turned away from Dent, and fixed on Elliot. Even should I, the commissioner, treat him with a partiality of leniency, yet, his country having long enjoyed the advantages of a commercial intercourse with Kwángtung, even for a period of two hundred years, if it shall find these advantages suddenly stopped and destroyed by the individual Elliot, will his sovereign treat him with consideration and indulgence? When on former occasions, foreign officers that have been here have failed to keep the laws, the nation aforesaid has several times gone to the full extent of the law in inflicting punishment upon them. Can Elliot not have heard of this?

“Having received your communication as afore stated, it behoves me to request your excellency the governor, to be so indulgent as once more to enjoin it upon Elliot, that it is needful he should come to have a fear of crime, and a purpose to repent and amend; that he should give clear commands to all the foreigners to obey the orders, requiring them to take the opium on board the store-ships, and speedily to deliver it up. Then not only the compradors of individuals and of ships will be all restored as usual; but I, the commissioner, with your excellency the governor, and the lieutenant-governor, will assuredly cease to go back into the past, and will lay our intreaties before the great emperor, that favors may be shown beyond the bounds of law. And thenceforward all the foreigners will conduct a legitimate trade, rejoicing in the exhaustless gains thereof. If, assuming a false garb of ignorance, he voluntarily draw upon himself troubles, the evil consequences will be of his own working out, and where shall he find place for after repentance? Herewith is sent a proclamation, under four heads, which, while I send copies to the hong-merchants to be pasted up, I hope you will at the same time enjoin on Elliot, that he may have it translated and given to all the foreigners, for their information. I wait your reply.’

“Upon the receipt of the above, I, the governor, proceed to issue this injunction, requiring of the prefect instantly to take with him the two magistrates of Nánhái and Pwányü, and to act in obedience to what is contained in the communication from his excellency the imperial commissioner, enjoining the commands on the said superintendent Elliot, that he may without fail obey.”

Having received this, he the prefect proceeds at once to issue commands. When these reach the said superintendent Elliot, let him pay immediate obedience. Let there be no opposition to these commands. March 26th, 1839.

—*Corresp.* pp. 370-373.

27th. Captain Elliot signified to the imperial commissioner his determination to surrender all the opium.

“Elliot, &c., &c., has now had the honor to receive, for the first time, your excellency’s commands, bearing date the 26th day of March, issued by the pleasure of the great emperor, to deliver over into the hands of honorable officers to be appointed by your excellency, all the opium in the hands of British subjects. Elliot must faithfully and completely fulfill these commands; and he has now respectfully to request that your excellency will be pleased to indicate the point to which the ships of his nation, having opium on board, are to proceed, so that the whole may be delivered up. The faithful account of the same shall be transmitted as soon as it is ascertained. (Signed) CHARLES ELLIOT.”

On the same day the following communication was made in reply.

“Chú, by special appointment, prefect of Kwángchan fú, issues commands to the English superintendent, Elliot, for his full information. He has now received the within commands from Lin the high imperial commissioner, and governor of Hák-wáng.

“This day it appears the following prepared address has been presented by the English superintendent, Elliot:—(*The preceding address is here inserted.*) Upon this coming before me, the commissioner, I forthwith reply:

“The representation that, in obedience to the commands, he will deliver up the opium, manifests a respectful sense of duty and understanding of matters. I find that the store-ships at present in these seas, are, in all, twenty-two; and the general amount of the opium they have on board. I am already informed of by my inquiries. The superintendent can have no difficulty in instantly ascertaining from all the foreigners in the factories the precise amounts, and immediately writing out and presenting a clear statement thereof, to enable me, the commissioner, in conjunction with the governor, at once to declare a certain period, when we will ourselves go to receive what is delivered up. He must not make an untrue report, lest he bring on himself the offense of concealing, deceiving, and passing over. Beware of this!

“I proceed to direct that commands be enjoined, and to this end address my commands to the prefect of Kwángchan fú, requiring that he pay immediate obedience, and make known to the hong-merchants my reply, for them to transmit the commands to the said superintendent Elliot, in order that he may obey the same. A special order.’

“Upon the receipt hereof, he the prefect proceeds to issue commands. When these reach the said superintendent Elliot, let him immediately act in obedience thereto, and instantly ascertain from all the foreigners in the factories, what is the precise amount of opium on board the store-ships now in these seas, and at once let him write out and present a clear statement thereof. Let there be no opposition to these commands.” March 27th, 1839.—*Corresp.* pp. 373-374.

For ‘a most momentous circular’ of this date, the reader is referred to vol. VII., p. 633.

28th. Captain Elliot, the opium having been made over to him, thus made the surrender of the same to the commissioner.

“Elliot, respectfully referring to your excellency’s commands, has now the honor to signify that he holds himself strictly responsible to your excellency, as the high commissioner of the great emperor, faithfully, and with all practicable dispatch, to deliver up as may be appointed, 20,283 (twenty thousand two hundred and eighty-three) chests of British owned opium, which he yesterday required of the people of his country in the name of his sovereign. But as it appears upon inquiry that considerable quantities of the said 20,283 chests are not at places within the immediate reach of this port, Elliot must request that your excellency will be pleased to accept his solemn public pledge, that every chest shall be delivered up as it falls into his possession, until the whole amount of 20,283 chests shall be within the hands of your excellency. And if Elliot dares to break that solemn public pledge in the least degree, he would most assuredly draw upon his own head the severest displeasure of his own sovereign. Elliot, however, is the

officer of the English nation only, and your excellency will, therefore, see that it is not in his power to require men of other foreign nations to deliver him their opium. It remains for him to offer the expression of his highest consideration.

—*Corresp.* p. 375.

(Signed)

“CHARLES ELLIOT.”

A rejoinder of the same date was soon forthcoming, of the following tenor.

“Chú, prefect of Kwángchau fú, issues commands to the English superintendent Elliot, for his full information. He has now received the within injunction from his excellency Lin, the high imperial commissioner and governor of Húkwang.

“The English superintendent Elliot has presented an address, of the following tenor:—(*Quoted as above.*)

“Upon this coming duly before me, the commissioner, I proceed to reply. By this address it appears, that the amount of opium has been ascertained, and the needful examination and receipt thereof respectfully awaited. The real sincerity and faithfulness thus shown, are worthy of praise. I find that the amount of 20,283 chests, stated by the said superintendent, has reference only to such as is brought by the English foreigners. I, the commissioner, have assuredly no suspicion that there is any insincerity behind. And the statement that there is some at other ports elsewhere, I presume also to be the fact. But I have considered that, before the issuing of the orders to deliver up, it is difficult to feel assured that there has been no opium laid up in the several foreign factories, nor any brought in the various vessels at Whampoa. The question does not now stop with what is in deposit on board store-ships, but at this time, when punishment is not to be inflicted on past offense, it is essential that all the opium, wherever laid up, should be completely surrendered. Assuredly the offenses of those who have before laid up a store thereof, shall not be visited upon them.

“I have now, in conjunction with the governor and lieutenant-governor, determined on the rules to be observed in regard to the delivery of the opium. Besides sending a copy thereof separately to the prefect of Kwángchau fú, that he may desire the hong-merchants to make known the same, I also require of the said superintendent, instantly to ascertain what quantity of opium there may be in the foreign factories; and on the 29th, officers shall be deputed to receive the same; what quantity of opium there may be on board the ships at Whampoa, to examine and receive which officers shall be sent on the 30th; and what quantity there is on board the twenty-two store-ships outside, to examine and receive which, I, the commissioner, and the governor, will ourselves go to the Bocca Tigris. Whatever there may be stored up at other ports, since the said superintendent has promised to deliver up the whole, he should of course be held responsible for the delivery of, from time to time, as it shall arrive. Should the amount be in excess of the 20,283 chests, it must still be fully surrendered. In so doing, the sincerity of the purpose will be shown. And assuredly no blame shall be attached to the inaccuracy of the original report, on account of such excess.

“Besides this, the American, French, and Dutch nations have also consuls in superintendence of affairs, to whom orders have now been given in like manner to pay obedience, and speedily to represent the real amounts, waiting till examination can be made, and the whole received. Though the said superintendent be peculiarly charged with the control of the English foreigners, yet having been

permitted by the crown, in consequence of the governor's representations, to remain as superintendent in the foreign factories, he should spread abroad his monitions, so that all may speedily deliver up what opium they have, so as to enable us memorialize the throne conjointly, and request a conferment of favors from the great emperor, in order to afford encouragement and stimulate exertion. Now is the time for the foreigners of all nations to repent of their faults, and pass over to the side of virtue. This is the day and time for reformation; and if embraced, the enjoyment of unending advantages will be the result. Let none on any account make excuses, or seek delay, so as to incur cause for future repentance. I proceed to issue commands, requiring obedience. And to this end I give my injunctions to the prefect of Kwángchau fú, requiring him immediately to transmit directions to the hong-merchants, to enjoin the commands on Elliot, to be without fail by him obeyed."

"This having been received, he the prefect proceeds to issue commands. When these reach the said superintendent Elliot, let him pay immediate obedience. Let there be no opposition to these commands." March 28th, 1839.—*Corresp.* pp. 375-376.

Further, under date of the 28th, we have the following edict, communicating four rules for the delivery of the opium.

"Chú, prefect of Kwángchau fú, issues commands to the English superintendent Elliot, for his full information. He has now received an injunction from Lin, the high imperial commissioner and governor of Húkwang, sending out four rules for the delivery of opium, which he transmits for immediate obedience. Be there no opposition. A special command.

"**RULES.** First.—The opium to be delivered up, as promised in the address, was not intended to have reference peculiarly to the store-ships. Whatever may be laid up in the foreign factories, or on board the ships at Whampoa the said superintendent is required first to deliver up: all that there may be in the factories he is required to have removed on the 29th, to the outside thereof, there to await the deputation of officers to examine and take charge of the same. As to the ships at Whampoa, he is instantly to draw up a clear statement of the amount of opium in chests on board any of them by name, and to write in readiness, foreign letters to be handed in to government: it being determined to depute an officer on the 30th, to proceed, with chop-boats and tea-boats to examine and take charge of the same.

"Secondly.—To the twenty-two store-ships, which have of late been anchored off Lintin, in the Macao Roads, and elsewhere, the said superintendent is also required to address foreign letters, that they may immediately proceed to make delivery. Officers shall be in the first place deputed to carry the letters, and give commands to the store-ships to cast anchor near to the Sandy-head offing, (one of the headlands of the Bogue,) and then and there they must respectfully await the arrival at the Bocca Tigris, of their excellencies the imperial commissioner and the governor, personally, between the 31st of March and the 2d of April, when they shall, ship by ship, submit the opium to be examined and taken charge of by their excellencies, in concert with the naval commander-in-chief.

"Thirdly.—The foreigners of his nation residing in the foreign factories at Macao, must also be required to convey any opium they have in store, to the port of Sandy-head, there to be in course of time examined and taken charge of.

"Fourthly.—Foreign vessels bringing opium from beyond sea, and being anchored in sundry and distant places, not near to the Boeca Tigris, the said superintendent and the several consuls are constantly in communication with them, and their courses are well known: they should be required, therefore, to write and have in readiness foreign letters, and to point out plainly the places in which the vessels are anchored, delivering such letters in to government, until officers shall be deputed to take and give them to the parties, who must bring their ships, with the opium on board, to the port of Sandy-head, where, as they arrive, the opium shall be delivered. There must not be the least concealment or delay." March 28th, 1839.—*Corresp.* p. 377.

29th. Captain Elliot having desired the commissioner to order the return of compradors and servants, and the use of passage-boats, &c., received the following reply from his excellency, through the prefect.

"Chú, by special appointment, prefect of Kwángchau fú, issues commands to the English superintendent Elliot, for his full information. He has now received the within injunction from Lin, the high imperial commissioner and governor of Húkwáng:

"Upon the 29th instant, the English superintendent Elliot, presented an address requesting that as usual the compradors and servants should be allowed to furnish the daily supplies of food, and the passage-boats should be permitted to run between this, the outer anchorages and Macao; he still remaining in Canton until the whole amount of opium shall be completely delivered up.

"On this duly coming before me, the commissioner, I proceed to reply. Yesterday the said superintendent, when addressing me in reply, promised for himself, that he would certainly deliver up the opium of his nation, to the amount of 20,283 chests, surrendering the whole quantity as he should bring it into his hands. I therefore answered in his praise, and at the same time clearly gave directions in regard to the places where, and time when, the delivery should be made. And I besides sent in a separate form, a list of rules, and required of him to write foreign letters or orders to enable me to depute officers to proceed therewith to the store-ships, and call on them to make the delivery. This was a most simple, convenient, and easy mode of proceeding. If the said superintendent were really acting with sincerity of purpose, he certainly should have speedily proceeded to obey my commands. Though he say, that in the foreign factories, and on board the ships at Whampoa, there is now no opium, yet the opium laid up on board the twenty-two store-ships is all deposited therein by the foreigners residing in the factories. Ordinarily, when combining with Chinese traitors to dispose thereof clandestinely, it has been always practicable to obtain foreign orders written at the factories, and giving the same to the fast boats to proceed therewith outside and get possession of the commodity. How is it then that on this occasion, when surrendering the opium, there is no knowledge of this mode of operation?

"In the present address, it is represented, that now, while the north wind is blowing, it is feared that vessels outside, having opium on board may perhaps set sail and go away. Now I find that of late the store-ships have all returned to Lintin, Macao Roads, and other anchorages, and there remained; doubtless, because they have heard that commands have been issued requiring delivery of the opium, and therefore have not dared to sail far away. They are yet disposed to await and pay obedience; while you would desire to stir them up and

make them go. I would ask, seeing that you have taken on you the responsibility in this matter, how, if the store-ships should dare to sail away, you will be able to sustain the heavy criminality attaching to you?

“The address talks too of close restraint, as if it were imprisonment, which is still more laughable. I find that from the 18th March, when the commands were given to all the foreigners to deliver up their opium, everything remained as usual until the 24th, when you came in a boat to Canton, and that night wished to take Dent and abscond with him. It was after this that cruizers were stationed to examine and observe all that went in and out. It was because you were void of truth and good faith, that it became unavoidably necessary to take preventive steps. As to the compradors and others, they are in fact Chinese traitors, who would also suggest absconding and escape. How then could the withdrawal of them be omitted? Yesterday, too, when you had made a statement of the amount of opium, I at once conferred on you a reward consisting of sundry articles of food. Is this the manner in which prisoners are ever treated? I, the high imperial commissioner, in conjunction with the governor and lieutenant-governor, looking up to the great emperor, embody his all-comprehending kindness, and in our treatment of you foreigners of every nation, never go beyond these two words,—favor and justice. Such as display contumacy and contempt, how can they have aught but justice dealt out to them? But such as show a respectful sense of duty, shall assuredly be tenderly intreated with favor.

“Do you now simply command plainly all the foreigners with instant speed to prepare letters, and hand them in to government, to enable it to give commands to all the store-ships to deliver up in orderly succession the opium. And as soon as this shall be delivered up, everything shall without fail be restored to its ordinary condition. This requisition is indeed conformable to reason; what difficulty is there in complying with it? If, in place of speedily making delivery, you make pretexts for diverting attention, in the hope that after the strict preventive measures shall be withdrawn you may form some other scheme, who cannot see through such artful devices? And will you be enabled to make a repetition of such attempts?

“Besides deputing officers to proceed to the hong-merchants' consou house, there to give verbal commands, and so prevent delay, you are also hereby required to act speedily in obedience to this my reply. Do not again be working at excuses and delay, thereby drawing on yourself causes for future repentance. I proceed to give this injunction requiring obedience: and to this end I enjoin the prefect of Kwángchau fú, instantly to command the hong-merchants to give it in command to the said superintendent Elliot, that he without fail pay obedience.”

“He (the prefect) having received this, proceeds to issue the commands. On these reaching the said superintendent Elliot, let him speedily act in conformity with this reply. Let him not again set to work at making excuses and delaying, lest he draw on himself causes for future repentance. Hasten! Hasten! A special command.” March 29th, 1839.—*Corresp.* pp. 378-380.

30th. The following notes were sent to the imperial commissioner, and the next day returned, though the proposition was finally agreed to.

“Elliot, being anxious to discharge his obligations to your excellency with all practicable dispatch, has the honor to acquaint your excellency that he has now

issued instructions to Mr. Johnston, the deputy superintendent, requiring him forthwith to proceed outside and deliver into the hands of the honorable officers, 20,283 (twenty thousand two hundred and eighty-three) chests. It is desirable, therefore, that the intercourse, by the licensed passage-boats, should be opened as soon as possible, in order that Mr. Johnston may proceed to Lintin, and there assemble all the ships for the purpose of convenient delivery. The inclosed is the order to Mr. Johnston for the delivery of the opium.

(Signed)

“CHARLES ELLIOT.

“Sir,—I have to instruct you to deliver over to the officers of the Chinese government, with the least possible delay, twenty thousand two hundred and eighty-three chests of opium; and for the more convenient and rapid discharge of that duty, you will be so good as to assemble all the British outside shipping at Lintin. You will report to me at Canton the quantity delivered by every opportunity which presents itself, to the end that I may communicate the same to the high commissioner, from time to time. I have, &c.,

—*Corresp.* p. 380.

(Signed)

“‘CHARLES ELLIOT.’”

Under this date captain Elliot wrote to his government, briefly reviewing the course of events, giving his opinion thereon, with reasons for the part he had acted.

“My lord,—I have considered that I shall most perspicuously perform my present duty to her majesty’s government, by confining this dispatch to a narrative of events accompanied by the documents connected with them; and indeed my imprisoned and harassed condition is not suited to a deliberately comprehensive exposition of the motives which have influenced some of the momentous proceedings involved in this report. Being at Macao on the 28th of last month for the purpose of conferring with captain Blake of her majesty’s sloop *Larne* then at anchor in those roads, I received intelligence to the effect that a native of China had been suddenly brought down into the square before the foreign factories on the 26th of the same month, accompanied by a considerable force of troops, and immediately put to death by strangulation. Within two hours after I had received these tidings, I embarked on board the cutter, and arrived here on the morning of the 2d instant.

“On the 10th instant, leaving the trade still proceeding, but with a state of gloom subsisting in the minds of all men, both natives and foreigners, I returned to Macao, to which point, and the outside anchorages, appearances indicated that the first measures of the commissioner would be directed. I was therefore anxious to have further consultation with captain Blake on the expediency of his protracted stay in these seas, till I could judge of the degree in which the high commissioner’s proceedings would affect the general and important interests confided to me.

“Between his excellency’s arrival and the 20th instant, rumors of every description were abroad: but the general impression was that the governor and the high commissioner were to proceed forthwith to Macao, or its near neighborhood, and commence their operations from that situation. At Macao, within the Barrier, tents were pitched, a considerable force was assembled, numbers of vessels and boats of war were collected, and I had myself observed, a few days before, under the forts at the Bocca Tigris, a display of old native vessels preparing to serve the purposes of fire-ships, or at all events to leave that impression

upon passing foreigners. In this menacing posture of affairs outside, I had determined to abide at Macao, so that my intercourse with her majesty's sloop might not be interrupted, and that I might concert with the commander measures of general protection, if any attack should be really directed against the lives or properties of her majesty's subjects.

"Resolved, in any pressure of emergency, actually threatening the continued peaceful intercourse with this empire, to incur most heavy personal responsibilities concerning the ships engaged in the illicit traffic, I had also determined to resist sudden aggression on British life and British property at all hazards, and to all extremity; and I am well assured, your lordship will be of opinion, that this was my capital duty as the queen's officer. On the 22d instant, however, as your lordship is already aware, the news reached me, that the storm had changed its direction, and impended over the whole foreign community at Canton in the most alarming form. Forwarding an address to the governor of Canton through the keunmin fu, and a transcript of the same to that officer, issuing two circulars to her majesty's subjects, and addressing a secret letter to captain Blake, of her majesty's sloop *Larne*, I proceeded to make the attempt to reach these factories on the 23d instant.

"It had been my intention to proceed only to the Boeya Tigris and carry on my communications from that point, but further disquieting private intelligence reached me from Canton; and the reflection of the natural unfitness of a commercial community to take any consentaneous course respecting the delicate and momentous question in hand, in this hour of extreme peril to all interests, and indeed generally to human life, carried me to the conviction that I must either reach these factories, or some desperate calamity would ensue. On Sunday the 24th inst., I passed through the Boeya Tigris, and calling to me an inferior officer stationed there, explained to him my apprehension, that if the communications were cut off between me and all the people of my nation at Macao and the other anchorages, they would believe that I and all the other foreigners were prisoners, or alarmed by vague reports that our lives were in immediate peril, they would attempt a rescue, to the certain violation of the peace between the countries, and to the great increase of our own danger. This I desired him to explain to his admiral with my respects. I reached Whampoa at 4 P. M. of the same day (the 24th), where I learnt, as I had anticipated, that the intercourse between that place and Canton had been entirely cut off for forty-eight hours.

"Putting on my uniform directly, and placing myself in the gig of her majesty's sloop *Larne*, which I had taken up with me, with the ensign and pendant hoisted, and my Chinese passport for the cutter in my hand, (declaratory of my public character and name), I proceeded forthwith to the chief officer I could find in the reach. I told that officer that it was my purpose to proceed to Canton; and that apprehending forcible interruption, I had to warn him that my boat was unarmed, that my purposes were peace and the protection of my countrymen, that I should offer no resistance, but that it was my resolution to reach the factories, or to sacrifice my life in the attempt. I therefore called upon him not to lose one moment in forwarding expresses to advertise the officers of various stations not to fire upon me. Disregarding his earnest dissuasion, I proceeded on immediately in the cutter to the usual anchorage, about four miles from these factories. At that point I was again approached by several armed boats; but pursuing a similar course of representation, I entered the gig, and proceeded upwards with all possi-

ble celerity, pulling and sailing. At my nearer approach to the factories, armed boats pushed out from every side, but the admirable steadiness of the four people of the *Larne*, and a commanding favorable breeze, enabled me to baffle the attempts to obstruct me; and at 6 p. m., I pushed into those stairs, to the great relief of my distressed countrymen, many of whom had watched the latter part of my approach with feelings of keenest solicitude.

"The top-mast of the flag-staff had been struck since the execution; but I immediately desired that the boat's ensign should be taken up and made fast to the lower mast-head; for I well knew, my lord, that there is a sense of support in the sight of that honored flag, fly where it will, that none can feel but men who look upon it in some such dismal strait as our's. The state of intense distress in which I found the whole foreign community will be explicable to her majesty's government, when I inform your lordship that the actual pressing difficulty was the obstinate demand that Mr. L. Dent, one of the most respected merchants at Canton, should proceed into the city, and attend the high commissioner's tribunal. The accompanying notes, however, (see page 357), will furnish a detailed account of the proceedings, which immediately preceded my arrival in Canton.

"My first step was to go to Mr. Dent's house with my countrymen; and taking him under my arm, I brought him to this hall, where by God's gracious mercy he still remains. Most anxious, however, to avoid all just imputation of impracticability, I immediately signified to the hong-merchants, for communication to the government, my readiness to let Mr. Dent go into the city with me, and upon the distinct written stipulation, (sealed with the high commissioner's signet,) that he was never to be removed for one moment out of my sight. I then assembled the whole foreign community in Canton, and reading to them my circulars issued at Macao, enjoined them all to be moderate, firm, and united. I had the satisfaction to dissolve the meeting in a calmer state of mind than had subsisted for several days past. The native servants were taken from us, and the supplies cut off on the same night; but it was declared by the merchants, that the orders had been issued in the course of the morning, by reason of Mr. Dent's opposition to the high commissioner's summons.

"An arc of connected boats was formed with armed men, the extremes of which touch the east and west points of the bank of the river in the immediate front of the factories, cutting off a segment of the stream from the main body; the square, and the rear of the factories, are occupied in considerable force; and before the gate of this hall the whole body of hong-merchants and a large guard are posted day and night, the latter with their swords constantly drawn. In short, so close an imprisonment of the foreigners is not recorded in the history of our previous intercourse with this empire.

"The justification of this immense responsibility will need more full development than it would be desirable, or indeed practicable, to make in my present condition. I am without doubt, however, that the safety of a great mass of human life hung upon my determination. For if I had commenced with the denial of my control over the subject, the high commissioner would have seized that pretext for reverting to his measures of intimidation against individual merchants, obviously the original purpose, but which my sudden appearance had disturbed. If I had persevered in this course of representation, he would have forced the whole into submission by the protracted confinement of the persons he should determine to seize; and, judging from the tenor of his proclamation and

general conduct, I am fully warranted in saying by the sacrifice of their lives. The forced and separate surrender of all this immense valuable property by individual merchants, without security of indemnity and protection, must have led to some desperate commercial convulsion in India and England, which might have embarrassed the queen's government in an incalculable degree. In a few words then, my lord, I may say, that I plainly perceived the moment had arrived for placing the whole weight of the immense difficulties to be encountered, on the only foundation where it could safely rest: namely, upon the wisdom, justice, and power of her majesty's government.

* * * * *

"This is the first time, in our intercourse with this empire, that its government has taken the unprovoked initiative in aggressive measures against British life, liberty, and property, and against the dignity of the British crown. I say unprovoked, advisedly, because your lordship will observe, in my address to the keunmin fú, dated at Macao, on the 22d ultimo, that I offered to adjust all things peacefully, by the fulfillment of the emperor's will, as soon as it was made known to me. Her majesty's government may be assured that there shall be no pretext of unseemly violence or intemperance of tone on my part, to help the vindication of the actual policy. They have deprived us of our liberty, and our lives in their hands; but our reason, and above all, our dutiful confidence in the queen's gracious protection, will remain with us. I have, &c.,

—*Corresp.* pp. 355-358.

(Signed)

"CHARLES ELLIOT."

(*To be continued.*)

ART. II. *Topography of Kiangsí: situation, extent, and boundaries of the province; its departments and districts enumerated and described; its rivers and lakes; with notices of its population, productions, and trade.*

PROCEEDING up the Great river (the 洋子江 *Yángtsz' kiáng*), first in a northwesterly and westerly, and then in a southwesterly direction, a distance of nearly four hundred miles, through the two provinces of Kiangsí and A'nhwui, you reach the northeastern borders of Kiangsí, where the river leaves the province, after a course of about eighty miles along its northern frontier, a part of which distance it forms the boundary line. In latitude 29° 56' N., longitude 6' W. of Peking, this Great river, "the Child of the Ocean," receives the Póyang with all its waters accumulated by the flowing into it of a great number of rivers; with but few exceptions, all these rivers have their sources within the boundaries of the province, while but few rising within the same boundaries flow outward. Hence,

when standing at the entrance of the lake, on the one side you have an easy descent to the Yellow sea and the Pacific; and on the other there opens a wide amphitheatre—extending, directly before you, southward to the Mei ling (or Plum ridge) over more than five degrees of latitude,—on your right, reaching nearly three degrees westward and southwestward,—and, on your left, more than two degrees eastward. Thus the province of Kíángsí is one spacious valley, comprising an area of 72,176 square miles, with a population of more than twenty-three millions of souls, or about 319 persons upon a square mile. It is a little larger than all that part of the United States called New England, and about as large as the state of Virginia; and also twice that of Portugal, and thrice that of Denmark, but vastly exceeds all those countries in population.

The province is bounded, on the north and northeast by Húpe and A'nhwui, on the east by Chekiáng and Fukien, on the south by Kwángtung, and on the west by Hónán. Its shape is irregular; its boundary, except on the north, being the summit of the hills, whose waters flow into the Póyang. A line drawn from the point where the Great river leaves the province, lat. $30^{\circ} 5' N.$, long. $10' E.$ of Peking, to lat. $24^{\circ} 30' N.$, long. $2^{\circ} W.$ of Peking, would show the greatest extent of the province, and divide it longitudinally into two nearly equal parts. Another line drawn at right angles to this, from one side of the province to the other, would show an average breadth of two and a half or three degrees.

The following is a complete list of the names of the departments and districts, in the order they are placed in the governmental books.

I. 南昌府 *Náncháng fú*; or the

Department of *Náncháng*, contains eight districts.

Its chief city is in lat. $28^{\circ} 37' 12'' N.$, and longitude $0^{\circ} 36' 43'' W.$ of Peking, and $115^{\circ} 48' 17'' E.$ of Greenwich.

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 南昌 <i>Náncháng</i> , | 5 奉新 <i>Fungsin</i> , |
| 2 新建 <i>Sinkien</i> , | 6 靖安 <i>Tsing-áu</i> , |
| 3 進賢 <i>Tsinhien</i> , | 7 武寧 <i>Wúning</i> , |
| 4 豐城 <i>Fungching</i> , | 8 義寧州 <i>Yning chau</i> . |

II. 饒州府 *Jáuchau fú*; or the

Department of *Jáuchau*, contains seven districts.

Its chief city is in lat. $28^{\circ} 59' 20'' N.$, long. $0^{\circ} 13' 38'' E.$ of Peking, and $116^{\circ} 38' 38'' E.$ of Greenwich.

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1 鄱陽 Póyang, | 5 德興 Tihing, |
| 2 安仁 Anjin, | 6 餘干 Yükan, |
| 3 萬年 Wännien, | 7 浮梁 Fauliang. |
| 4 樂平 Lóhping, | |

III. 廣信府 *Kwángsin fú*; or the

Department of Kwángsin, contains seven districts.

Its chief city is in lat. $28^{\circ} 27' 36''$ and long. $1^{\circ} 37' 30''$ E. of Peking, and $118^{\circ} 2' 30''$ E. of Greenwich.

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| 1 上饒 Shángjáu, | 5 興安 Hingán, |
| 2 廣豐 Kwángfung, | 6 弋陽 Yiyáng, |
| 3 玉山 Yushán, | 7 貴溪 Kweikí. |
| 4 鉛山 Yuenshán, | |

IV. 南康府 *Nánkáng fú*; or the

Department of Nánkáng, has four districts.

Its chief city is in lat. $29^{\circ} 31' 42''$ N., and long. $0^{\circ} 26' 37''$ W. of Peking, and $115^{\circ} 58' 23''$ E. of Greenwich.

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| 1 星子 Singtsz', | 3 安義 An-í, |
| 2 建昌 Kiencháng, | 4 都昌 Túcháng. |

V. 九江府 *Kiúkiáng fú*; or the

Department of Kiúkiáng, contains five districts.

Its chief city is in lat. $29^{\circ} 54' 54''$ N., and long. $0^{\circ} 24'$ W. of Peking, and $116^{\circ} 1'$ E. of Greenwich.

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1 德化 Tihwá, | 4 湖口 Húkau, |
| 2 德安 Ti-án, | 5 瑞昌 Suicháng. |
| 3 彭澤 Pángtse, | |

VI. 建昌府 *Kiencháng fú*; or the

Department of Kiencháng, contains five districts.

Its chief city is in lat. $27^{\circ} 33' 36''$ N., and long. $0^{\circ} 12' 18''$ E. of Peking, and $116^{\circ} 37' 18''$ E. of Greenwich.

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| 1 南城 Nánching, | 4 廣昌 Kwángcháng, |
| 2 新城 Sinching, | 5 瀘溪 Lúki. |
| 3 南豐 Nánfung, | |

VII. 撫州府 *Fúchau fú*; or the

Department of Fúchau, has six districts.

Its chief city is in lat. $27^{\circ} 56' 24''$ N., and long. $0^{\circ} 10' 30''$ W. of Peking, and $116^{\circ} 14'$ E. of Greenwich.

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1 臨川 Linchuen, | 4 樂安 Lóh-án, |
| 2 金谿 Kinkí, | 5 崇仁 Tsungjin, |
| 3 宜黃 Ihwáng, | 6 東鄉 Tunghiáng. |

VIII. 臨江府 *Linkiáng fú*; or the

Department of Linkiáng, has four districts.

Its chief city is in lat. $27^{\circ} 57' 36''$ N., and long. $1^{\circ} 1' 30''$ W. of Peking, and $115^{\circ} 23' 30''$ E. of Greenwich.

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| 1 清江 Tsingkiáng, | 3 新喻 Sinyü, |
| 2 新淦 Sinkán, | 4 峽江 Kiáhkíáng. |

IX. 瑞州府 *Suichau fú*; or the

Department of Suichau has three districts.

Its chief city is in lat. $28^{\circ} 24' 40''$ N., and long. $1^{\circ} 10' 54''$ W. of Peking, and $115^{\circ} 14' 6''$ E. of Greenwich.

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1 高安 Káu-án, | 3 新昌 Sincháng. |
| 2 上高 Shángkáu, | |

X. 袁州府 *Yuenchau fú*; or the

Department of Yuenchau, has four districts.

Its chief city is in lat. $27^{\circ} 51' 32''$ N., and long. $2^{\circ} 5' 24''$ W. of Peking, and $114^{\circ} 19' 36''$ E. of Greenwich.

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| 1 宜春 I'chun, | 3 分宜 Faní, |
| 2 萬載 Wántái, | 4 萍鄉 Pinghiáng. |

XI. 吉安府 *Ki-án fú*; or the

Department of Ki-án, has ten districts.

Its chief city is in lat. $27^{\circ} 7' 54''$ N., and long. $1^{\circ} 34' 5''$ W. of Peking, and $114^{\circ} 50' 55''$ E. of Greenwich.

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| 1 廬陵 Lüling, | 6 永寧 Yungning, |
| 2 泰和 Táihó, | 7 蓮花廳 Lienhwá ting, |
| 3 萬安 Wán-án, | 8 吉水 Kishui, |
| 4 龍泉 Lungtsiuen, | 9 永豐 Yungfung, |
| 5 永新 Yungsin, | 10 安福 A'nfú. |

XII. 贛州府 *Kánchau fú*; or the
Department of *Kánchau*, has nine districts.

Its chief town is in lat. $25^{\circ} 52' 48''$ N., and long. $1^{\circ} 40' 54''$ W. of Peking, and $114^{\circ} 14' 06''$ E. of Greenwich.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 贛縣 <i>Kán hien</i> , | 6 安遠 <i>A'nyuen</i> , |
| 2 信豐 <i>Sinfung</i> , | 7 長寧 <i>Chángning</i> , |
| 3 定南廳 <i>Tingnán ting</i> , | 8 興國 <i>Hingkwóh</i> , |
| 4 龍南 <i>Lungnán</i> , | 9 零都 <i>Yütú</i> . |
| 5 會昌 <i>Hwuicháng</i> , | |

XIII. 南安府 *Nán-án fú*; or the
Department of *Nán-án*, has four districts.

Its chief city is in lat. $25^{\circ} 30'$ N., and long. $2^{\circ} 28' 38''$ W. of Peking, and $113^{\circ} 56' 22''$ E. of Greenwich.

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 大庾 <i>Táiyü</i> , | 3 上猶 <i>Shángyú</i> , |
| 2 南康 <i>Nánkáng</i> , | 4 崇義 <i>Tsungí</i> . |

XIV. 寧都州 *Ningtú chau*, or the
Department of *Ningtú*, has two districts.

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1 瑞金 <i>Suikin</i> , | 2 石城 <i>Shiching</i> . |
|----------------------|------------------------|

Both of the British embassies traveled through this province—that of Macartney entered it from Chekiáng on the east; the other, under lord Amherst, entered it by the *Yángtsz'* kiáng; both crossed the lake, and then proceeded by the same route to Canton. If the present British expedition should extend its operations on the Great river, and on the lake and its chief tributary, the *Kán*, the security of the Chinese on this great thoroughfare will be sadly interrupted. The advanced squadron on the *Kán* could come, with small craft and steamers, within three hundred miles of the factories at Canton. Westward, it might pass through *Húkwáng* and *Sz'chuen*, into *Yunnán*,—and all this it could effect in the course of two or three weeks. Mr. Davis, speaking of his trip up the Great river, says, “Here, after little less than a month's protracted, but not tedious journey, we quitted the magnificent *Yángtsz'* kiáng, nearly four hundred miles from its mouth, but still *two thousand miles* short of its source! It is upwards of fifteen times longer than the river *Thames*, and bears about the same proportion to it, that the territory of China

bears to that of England and Scotland. We had found its sides composed of the most beautiful country, lying in the finest climate, and planted with numerous and flourishing cities. Being the first Englishmen who had ever navigated its stream, and probably the last who for a long period of years would be able to do so, the abundant leisure and opportunities afforded by our frequent halts had been employed agreeably, and perhaps not unprofitably, in strict accordance with the precept of the English poet, who says with reference to the Thames—

‘Search not its bottom, but survey its shores.’ ”

I. *The department of Náncháng* is the principal one in the province, and has within it the provincial city, bearing the same name, which is also given to one of the districts. On the west and northwest, the department is bounded by Húnán and Húpe, on the north by Kiúkiáng and Nánkáng, on the east by Fúchau, Linkiáng and Suichau. It comprises eight districts, consisting of one *chau* and seven *hien*. A ridge of mountains stretches along its western part; and on these highlands the river Siú takes its rise in three separate fountains, and, after being united in one stream, it flows on in a northeasterly course and falls into the lake. The city Náncháng stands on the eastern bank of the river *Kán*. Du Halde says little of it, besides remarking that it was once the residence of princes of the Ming family, and accordingly was an object on which the Manchou rulers poured their wrath, burning and destroying all they could find in it.

Mr. Davis says, “the interior of the city has since been restored; that some of the party walked round its walls, and found it answering to the description given in the first volume of Du Halde, the area being nearly six miles in circuit, of an oval shape, and with seven gates. The suburbs appeared in no ways different from the city itself.” He remarks also, that considerable space within the walls, as was the case at Nánking, was still uninhabited, not having been rebuilt since it was destroyed nearly two centuries ago. Barrow adds, “the city is situated on the left bank of the river, which is here about five hundred yards in width, against the stream of which, with a brisk breeze, we made rapid progress. For the first sixty miles the country was flat and uncultivated, except the places where we observed a few fields of rice. But there was no want of population. Towns and villages were constantly in sight, as were also manufactories of earthen-ware, bricks and tiles. The farther we advanced up the river, the more populous was the country, the more varied and agree-

able the surface, the more extended the cultivation." There were, he says, lying at anchor at Náncháng, four or five hundred revenue vessels, one of which he measured. "It was in length 115 feet, breadth 15 feet, and depth 6 feet; the sides straight, and the width nearly the same fore and aft; so that the burden might fairly be estimated at 350 tons. Independent therefore, of the innumerable small craft, there were lying before the city, 100,000 tons of shipping."

II. *The department of Jáuchau* forms the northeastern portion of the province: and in that quarter is bounded by the department of Hwuichau in Anhúi; on the southeast it is bounded by Kwángsin; on the south by Fúchau; on the west by Náncháng and Nánkáng; and by Kiúkiáng on the northwest. On the west it is washed by the waters of the Póyang lake, into which four considerable rivers flow, two from the north, one from the east. Its form is nearly circular; and its surface, in many places, uneven and mountainous. Its chief magistrate resides at Jáuchau, on the eastern shores of the lake, and his jurisdiction extends over seven districts. In one of these, Fauliáng hien, is the site of the celebrated manufactories of porcelain. It stands forty or fifty miles northeast from Jáuchau, on the river Cháng, and is called *Kingte chin* (景德鎮) the mart of Kingte. The Chinese historian says, "it is situated thirty *li* (eight or ten miles) southwest from Fauliáng, and was founded in the reign of Kingte of the Sung family (who began to reign A. D. 1004), and hence derived its name. 'The books say,' continues the same historian, "that the earth and water of that site are suitable for porcelain; and that in the time of Siuente (about 1426), the manufactories of imperial wares were established."

D'Entrecolles, one of the learned Jesuits, had a church at Kingte, and among his parishioners there were several who both made and traded in these wares. From them and from books, he obtained a most thorough knowledge of the art. From his writings, and those of some of the other Jesuits, Du Halde has given a full account of its manufacture. Vol. I., p. 338, fol. ed.

III. *The department of Kwángsin* occupies that portion of the province, which is situated between Jáuchau and Fukien on the east. It constitutes a wide valley, down which Macartney and his party traveled on their return from Peking. Having left Hángchau, the embassy ascended the Tsientáng in boats as far as practicable; it had then four-and-twenty miles to pass over land to Yushán, the chief town of a district of the same name, standing on the northern side of

a river, upon which the ambassador and his suite were to embark." This road was first over rising grounds, and afterwards in narrow valleys, and through low and marshy rice grounds, over a causeway raised between two stone walls, and covered with fine gravel, brought from the neighboring mountains. To the southward of the road, were several round and conical hills detached from each other, covered with grass and shrubs, and of so regular a figure, and of so uniform a slope from the summit to the base, that they had the appearance of having been formed by art. They consisted of blue coarse-grained limestone. Beyond these were quarries, out of which were dug stones beautifully white and shining. They consisted of quartz in its purest state, and were used for *pe-tan-tsz'* (白木子) in the manufacture of porcelain. Through this short land journey, and far from all great roads, not a mile was traveled without a village, nor a spot observed, except mere rocks, or perpendicular heights, that was not under cultivation. The soil in many places was indifferent; but the people were in proportion active in their efforts to fertilize it. The party had scarcely embarked at Yushán, when the violence of the wind and rain either retarded or entirely stopped their progress. After the showers had ceased, their effect in swelling the river still continued, and its current being favorable, they proceeded rapidly along the stream. About the city of Kwángsin, the weather was again wet, cold and gloomy. The country had also a rude appearance. On each bank of the river were sometimes large masses of naked rock, of vast height, and resembling the rough scenes of nature which had been deemed to be exaggerated in Chinese drawings. The rock was a dark sandstone. Several rice-mills on the river showed that the grain was more frequently reduced into flour in this province, than to the northward where no such erections were observed."

IV. *The department of Nánkáng* is situated on the western and northern borders of the lake, (but not including its most northern part), having Kiúkiáng on the north, Jáuchau on the east, and Nán-cháng on the south and west. The general features of the country are like those of the neighboring departments. In the northwestern portion of this department are the celebrated Lü shán, 廬山 or "the mountains of Lü," which Mr. Davis visited. As he proceeded southward, on the lake, towards Nánkáng, they "gradually rose to a great height, until the most distant were capped with clouds, and could not be less than five hundred feet above the level of the lake. This range is one of the most celebrated in China, for reasons which

will presently appear, independent of its great natural beauties. Our first excursion was a walk towards the Lü sháu; and we succeeded in reaching the top of the range of hills next in height to them, though still greatly inferior, and thence had a noble view of the lake and the surrounding country. These hills were covered with earth to the very top, but yet uncultivated. The herbs which grew upon them in vast variety were, almost without exception, strongly aromatic. A beautiful species of bright laurel leaved oak, and the sycamore, were the principal trees observed."

The town of Nánkáng stands on the western shore of the lake at a place where it is very narrow. "We arrived," says Mr. Davis, "at this city early in the day, and anchored near a mole, built along the northeastern side of the town, forming a small harbor for boats to lie in, secure from the tempestuous waters of the lake in bad weather. Sufficient swell existed, as it was, to make it resemble an arm of the sea, and the shore was covered with shingle in the manner of a beach. Immediately on our arrival a party proceeded to walk through the town. The walls were new, and appeared to have been lately built or repaired, but the town, strange to say, was completely desolate within. The shops were not so good as at the little town *Tákú táng*, where we had lately stopped, and a very large portion of the area within the walls consisted of fields. The only decorations were a considerable number of honorary gateways (*páilau*), on which the carved relief was remarkably bold, and contained representations of ancient historical events in well executed work. The inscriptions on some of these proved them to have existed between two and three hundred years, from the solid material of their construction, very unlike the wooden gateways of the same kind which we had often seen elsewhere. The town must at some former period have been an important and flourishing place, in connection with the literary and classical recollection of the *Lü sháu* in the immediate neighborhood."

On the 16th and 17th Nov., Mr. Davis made two excursions up the heights of those mountains, the beauty and sublimity of which, combined with their associations, has rendered them the frequent subject of poetical celebration among the people. As the mountains appeared to the author of the 'Sketches,' on the 16th, during his first excursion, the "highest peaks were evidently covered with snow drifts." On this day, the lateness of the hour compelled him and his fellows to return earlier than they wished, having directed their course to a very fine and conspicuous water-fall. A large party set off the next

day. Four miles of the distance were accomplished, before they seemed to be more than half way to the summit, when some of the adventurers returned, while the others steered their course up a regular pathway in one of the ravines, hoping to reach a pagoda perched up at the elevation of several hundred feet near the water-fall. In about three hours and a half, after quitting the town, they reached the pagoda—a most romantic spot. To the left of the pagoda, and just above the water-fall, was a small temple, to which they directed their steps, and there found some priests and obtained refreshments. They had then traveled eight or nine miles. As they ascended to this spot, they found the climate change, and observed the plants and trees which are found in a natural state in England. On a following day, a romantic dell was visited not far from the bottom of the water-fall, where they found “gigantic characters some feet in length,” cut into the face of the native rock—“memorials of persons who had visited the spot.” On the 19th, Mr. Davis visited “the vale of the White Deer,” where *Chú*, the great disciple and commentator of Confucius lived and taught. It is a secluded valley about seven or eight miles from the city, situated in a nook by the side of a rivulet. The buildings were comprised in a number of different courts, but quite plain, evidently intended for use rather than show. In a school-room were fine large tablets, on which were inscribed the five cardinal virtues. In one of the halls, the white deer was represented. Near by a tree was pointed out, said to have been planted by the philosopher’s own hands. This valley forms a place of pilgrimage to the literati of China at the present day. For the foregoing particulars, and more which we might quote, we are indebted to Mr. Davis. See his *Sketches*, vol. II., p. 55, et seq.

V. *The department of Kiúkiáng*,—or that of “the Nine-rivers,” as the name signifies,—forms the most northern portion of the province; it is watered by the Great river, and is bounded on the east and south by the departments of Jáuchau, Nánkáng, and Náncháng. It includes the most northern part of the lake, and of course was visited by the members of Amherst’s embassy. In point of situation, it was the most remarkable town that had been seen by them. As they ascended the river, it lay on their left, “and might be described as nestled in a romantic valley or basin, formed by the lofty hills surrounding it. Nearly the whole of the built and inhabited part was in this valley, but the walls themselves surrounded a much larger area, running up the ridges and over the summits of the hills at the sides and back of the town; while the front, or water

line, ran horizontally across the valley looking towards the river." The embassy had also a good view of "the city of the Lake's mouth," which Mr. Davis says, is embosomed in high hills in a manner not unlike the one already described.

VI. *The department of Kiencháng* is a small tract of country, comprising five districts, situated on the borders of Fukien, at the head of a valley lying off to the southeast from Náncháng. It is high, mountainous, and not very fertile.

VII. *The department of Fúchau* is situated between Kiencháng and Náncháng. The face of the country is much diversified with plains, dales, hills, and mountains. The air and climate are good, and the ground is watered by numerous small streams, besides the main river which pours down the middle of the valley from Kiencháng. This river, which rises near the frontiers of the province, runs from the southeast to the northwest, and, after passing the city Fúchau, divides into two branches and empties itself into the lake.

VIII. *The department of Linkiáng* is situated southward from Náncháng, and on both sides of the river Kán. The boats on this river are peculiarly light, being made as buoyant as possible. As Mr. Davis and his fellow travelers proceeded from Náncháng, they found the bed of the river composed of shingle and gravel. After passing over the low country about the lake, it was to them a gratifying change to travel along this clear and fresh-looking stream, where the country began to assume a more varied and picturesque appearance. The massive camphor tree, with its dark green leaves, was very abundant, and a great ornament to the landscape. The character of the mountain stream was marked by the great banks of gravel and stones, which constantly appeared above the water in the channel of the river. Stone embankments were occasionally observed on each side, to serve as a security against the sudden swelling of the stream. Having passed "the station of camphor trees" ten or twelve miles, they reached the mouth of the Sin kiáng (a small tributary of the Kán), on which about six miles distant, stands the chief town of the department. Mr. Davis "was surprised to see so much of the banks of the river in what might almost be styled a state of nature." Field and garden cultivation was more unfrequent than they had hitherto observed. The tallow-tree, as well as the camphor, was abundant. Near Sinkán, the chief town in the most eastern district of this department, he "observed some little approach to the fruit and vegetable cultivation prevailing about Canton. On the sides of the river were groves of the orange-tree, and the tops of the barren hills were thickly planted with fir."

IX. *The department of Suichau*, which comprises only three districts, stretches westward from Náncháng to the borders of Húnán, comprising a beautiful valley through which the river Kin flows on its way to the lake. Du Halde says, the city Suichau, is built on both sides of the Kin, and is connected by two bridges, one of boats, and the other of stone, with more than ten arches.

X. *The department of Yuenchau* lies on the borders of Húnán, having Suichau on the north, Linchau on the east, and Ki-án on the south. Du Halde says that it yields to no other part of the province "in the fertility of its soil, and plenty of everything." Three rivers have their sources within its borders, two of which flow eastward, and the other westward into Húnán.

XI. *The department of Ki-án*—"the happy and quiet region"—lies south from Linkiáng, and north of Nán-án, stretching from Húpe on the west, down across the valley of the Kán, to the departments of Fúchau, Ningtú, and Kánchau, on the east. Into the Kán several streams flow, some coming down from the west, and others from the east. Beyond the city Ki-án, the river Kán is very narrow and has "Eighteen Rapids," "which," says Barrow, "are torrents formed by ledges of rock running across the bed of the river; they have not, however, anything terrific in them—not one being half so dangerous as the fall at London bridge about half-tide. This intricate part of the river, where innumerable pointed rocks occurred, some above, some even with, and others just below, the surface of the water, required two long days' sail with a fair breeze; and the falls became more rapid and dangerous the farther we advanced. At the fifteenth rapid we perceived two or three vessels lying against the rocks, with their flat bottoms uppermost." Both Barrow and Davis describe the country in the neighborhood of these rapids, as being extremely beautiful. "The transparency of the stream, the bold rocks finely fringed with wood, and the varied forms of the mountains, called to mind those delightful streams, that are discharged from the lakes of the north counties of England." At Ki-án, Mr. Davis saw great quantities of Nankeen cloth, manufactured from the produce of that place and its immediate vicinity.

XII. *The department of Kánchau* forms the southern portion of the province, and comprises nine districts. Its chief city as viewed by Mr. Davis, seemed to surpass, in the extent of its area, any that he had before seen. It is a place of great commercial business, and the surrounding country is rich and diversified. In this city there is a pagoda of nine stories, on a hexagonal base, from the summit of

which some of the members of the embassy gained a delightful view of the surrounding country.

XIII. *The department of Nán-án* forms the southwest portion of the province. At or near its chief city the inland navigation, from the north, terminates. The city is divided into two separate walled portions one on each bank of the river. The English visitors have recorded little of it worthy of notice. The distance from the lake to this city is about three hundred miles.

XIV. *The department of Ningtú* is situated between the departments of Ki-án and Kánchau on the west, and Kiencháng and Fukien on the east, being the upper valley of one of the eastern tributaries of the Kán. It comprises only two districts.

The principal lake, and most of the rivers of the province, have been already named; and enough said of them to show, not only that the whole territory is well watered, but that the inland navigation is both extensive and easy. The Póyang is differently described by different writers. Those of the English embassies have represented it as the very "sink of all China." Others have given a more favorable, and probably a more correct, account of it. In regard to extent, it is second only to the Tungting in Húkwáng. The people of the province are laborious, enterprising, but in no way distinguished for their civilization and intellectual improvements. The women in many places are accustomed to the hard labors of the field. The productions, in the mineral, vegetable, and animal kingdoms, are great in variety, many of them plentiful, and excellent in quality.

ART. III. *Portrait of Wáng ti, the third of the five emperors, with notices of his life and character.*

THIS monarch's character has been drawn with great precision by the Chinese, who honor him as the author of many useful inventions, and as the possessor of almost every intellectual and moral excellence. The rude and uncultivated appearance of his predecessor is laid aside, and you see, in his portrait, the countenance and costume not only of the civilized man, but of the royal sovereign and the venerable sage.



He was born in one of the districts of Hónán, called 軒轅 *Hien-yuen*, and also 有熊 *Yú-hiung*; and therefore was sometimes called by these names. He was brought up at 姬水 *Kí-shúi*; and hence *Kí* was sometimes used for his *sing* or family name, which was 公孫 *Kung-sun*.

On the demise of the Divine Husbandman, there were several pretenders to the throne. But—"knowledge is power"—our hero enlisted six species of wild animals, (bloodhounds not then being in vogue,) taught them the art of war, and his enemies were all vanquished, and peace and order and prosperity universally reigned. Having become sovereign by terrestrial power, he styled himself, as he ascended the throne, 黃帝 *Hwáng tí*, the Yellow emperor—because the color of the earth is yellow

The mariner's compass, the six Boards, an observatory with astronomical instruments, the calendar, writing, arithmetic, scales of weights and measures, chronometers, music, medicine, commerce, ships and carriages, with a great variety of useful and elegant implements, were the products of his genius. His was a golden age. After a reign of 100 (some say 111) years, this great and wise sovereign fell. His praises are celebrated alike both in story and in song; but, the Chinese being judges, no language can do justice to his virtues. He was buried in Shensi.

ART. IV. *New works for aiding the study of the Chinese language: Systema Phonicum Scripturæ Sinicæ; a Lexilogus of the English, Malay, and Chinese languages; First Lessons in the Tie-chew Dialect; and Easy Lessons in Chinese.*

'Too long already we have neglected to bring these several works to the notice of our readers; and now we have only space for brief notices of them. The multiplication of this class of books argues well for the progress of Chinese literature. The facilities for multiplying books of this sort have of late years been greatly increased. Twenty years ago, Dr. Morrison's Dictionary was completed, at an expense of £15,000; and all this outlay was made for type, manual labor, &c. Now, we suppose, one third that sum, or perhaps even a less amount, would suffice. Still the expense of such publications is not small. It is desirable, therefore, that every proper means be taken to secure for them as extensive patronage as possible.

1. *Systema Phonicum Scripturæ Sinicæ. Auctore J. M. Callery, missionario apostolico in Sinis. Part I. et II. Macao, 1841.* Regarding the merits of this book, it is not easy to form an opinion, and those we have heard expressed are very contradictory. Much labor was bestowed on its preparation by M. Callery, and it is a valuable addition to the helps for studying the Chinese language. We shall feel much indebted to any student in the language who will prepare for our pages an analysis of the book, with critical remarks on its several parts. Hoping that some one, who can perform this task better than we can, will soon furnish such a view, we withhold, for the present, any additional remarks of our own

2. *A Lexilogus of the English, Malay, and Chinese languages; comprehending the vernacular idioms of the last in the Hok-keen and Canton dialects.* Printed at the Anglo-Chinese College press: Malacca, 1841. pp. 110. This little school-book, executed under many disadvantages, is nevertheless very servicable, particularly to those—for whose use it was especially designed, namely,—Chinese who are learning English. The sentences are short and easy, and such as are constantly needed and used in the common business of life. It was designed evidently for the school-room, and not as a manual for reference. The phrases being thrown together in a miscellaneous manner, it is not easy to find any particular term, required for a special object or occasion. Had the phrases been arranged according to subjects, the value of the collection would have been considerably enhanced.

3. *First Lessons in the Tie-chew dialect.* By W. Dean. Bangkok, Siam, 1841. Pp. 43. "This little work," Mr. Dean says, "aims at nothing more than a few simple lessons for beginners." Its general character is quite like that of the Lexilogus—but it differs from that work in two particulars: the phrases are arranged into classes according to subjects, and are limited to one dialect. The Chinese in both these works, is printed with Mr. Dyer's new type.

4. *Easy Lessons in Chinese, or progressive exercises to facilitate the study of that language, especially adapted to the Canton dialect.* By S. Wells Williams. Printed at the office of the Chinese Repository. Macao, 1842. Pp. 287. On another occasion we will give an analysis of this work, like that given of the Chinese Chrestomathy in a former number—our object being to show what the works are, hoping thereby to secure for them a favorable reception by those who are desirous of promoting the study of Chinese literature. The Easy Lessons have been favorably noticed and recommended by the editors of the Canton Register and Canton Press.

ART. V. *Letter of Wáng Tinglân, commissioner of justice in the province of Canton, addressed to his friend Tsang Wángyen, a native of Hiángshàn, and late memorialist to the throne.*

SIR, to you I respectfully address this communication. The soldiers collected from the several provinces, for the recent service in Canton,

being seventeen thousand strong, could not be considered as few in number. The money in the treasury, amounting to some millions of taels, could not be deemed an inadequate sum. Timber was purchased from Kwángsí. Powder, spears, and guns were brought from Kíángsí and A'nhwui. Thus there was no want of military stores and implements in readiness. Yet these have all been broken up, dashed to pieces, and scattered, solely because those who had the management of affairs were without rules and regulations, either for their own guidance, or for the employment of the troops. There are facts, connected with this affair, which pencil and ink cannot describe, and which I dare not mention; I blush with shame, and am filled with indignation, at their bare remembrance.

This, sir, being your native province, no doubt you ardently desire to have a faithful account of the proceedings on the late occasion, to which this letter will be particularly confined. Regarding these proceedings there are four things which are inexplicable, two which are to be regretted, and three to be lamented.

The erection of forts, at the various narrow passages on the river to Canton, well distributed in a connected line, shows that our ancestors possessed a knowledge of local advantages, which cannot be equalled by the people of our own times. The advance of the foreign ships on the river up to Canton, was made under the pilotage and direction of native traitors, there being on our part nothing prepared to prevent this. From the very first, on his arrival here, the minister Keshen exhibited no disposition to fight. He stood in awe of the foreigners, as much as if they had been tigers; but had he met them promptly, things would not have come to this pass. The robbers having attacked the defenses at the Bogue, the soldiers at the forts next above them were quickly scattered. So when they reached those at Howqua's folly, the forts up to the city were deserted. It was expected that our troops would not be routed, but would put their foes to flight, and not return into the city, and then talk with them of peace. Now the city has its forts for defense, as a house has its doors and gates. Yet what is the advantage of gates, if when the robbers approach they are not closed? Nay but the guilt of opening the gates, and inviting the robbers to enter, how can a hundred lips excuse? In short, even their very beds were given up by our troops for the robbers to snore upon! This is the first of the things inexplicable, and the guilt thereof will assuredly rest on the man [Lin Tsesü] who gave rise to these evils.

When the foreigners first entered the river, they did not know

whether it was practicable to advance far or not. Accordingly they moved along by slow degrees, having to employ small boats with Chinese traitors to take the soundings. On reaching those places where the junks loaded with stones had been sunk, not seeing there even one officer or one soldier, they at once removed the obstructions, and advanced as unconcernedly as if they had been entering an uninhabited region. The authorities in Canton having caught a Chinese traitor, ascertained from him that there were sixteen of like character, who daily entered the city as spies. In the meantime, our own spies reported nothing but lies and nonsense, only calculated to frighten each other. And it was not until after the attack on the city, when the foreign ships of war were withdrawing from the river, that it was ascertained by us that there were shallows where the vessels could not move, and were required to be dragged by small boats and steamers. Now had there been only one or two persons able to have made this discovery half a month earlier, how easy it would have been to have employed some of our marines and made an attack with fast-boats and fire-ships, and burnt up the men of war while on those shallows! They had their spies who could act; but not one had we. They could employ traitorous Chinese; but not a single foreigner could we get to act in this capacity. This is the second of the things which are inexplicable.

After more than a hundred mat-dwellings had been built at Hongkong, and a mock magistracy established, it was on a day reported by spies that more than half of those dwellings had been pulled down. It was also reported, that the foreign officers had in regular succession embarked, that twenty ships of war, with steamers and many boats, were far on their way to Canton. At that time I chanced to be paying my morning visit to his excellency, the governor of Canton, and ventured to suggest that, as all the ships had left Hongkong, the place must necessarily be quite deserted, and that it would be practicable to send an army secretly to seize upon that robber's nest; I also suggested that a very strong force should be placed at Níching [where sir H. Gough disembarked], so that when the robbers should have advanced to the attack, these soldiers could move out and cut off their retreat. Hemmed in thus, victory over them would not have been doubtful. But his excellency would consent to no such movements. However, after the affair was over, every one found fault with the tardy movement of our troops. Even after the robbers had entered the Bogue with their ships, they supposed the attack would be made on them, and not that they were to make the attack. Early

and promptly to have opposed them could have been only right and proper; and that this was not done is the third one of the items which are inexplicable.

The position of Níching, covering the northern entrance to the city, is one of much importance. Now it happened that in the attack on Wangtong, there was among the runaways one colonel Liú Tá-cháng, whom his excellency the governor reported for military honors, as one who had fallen in the service of his country. The honors were according conferred, when lo! the said runaway colonel came back, and reported that, having been wounded, he escaped alive by swimming; and so his case was again reported to the emperor! Afterwards the governor appointed this same fellow, with another of like quality, to be chief officers in the camp at Níching—an act of mere favoritism. But the sound of the enemy's guns had scarcely reached their camp, when these two veteran heroes fled, and to this day not a word of censure has been heard. On the fifth day, the robbers with their ships gained possession of the public landing-place and the forts in front of the city, and our soldiers fled leaving their artillery behind them. None of the troops in the city came out to their aid. The city was now shut up, and for three successive days the robbers continued their fire, throwing shells within the walls. On three sides, the fierce flames rose up to the heavens, and thousands of the people's houses were burnt. The sound of their cries was distressing. At this crisis orders came from the authorities that the scattered soldiers, who had fled from their posts around the city, might enter the gates, but that no man or woman of the people would be allowed to go out. Thus the troops were not employed in defense of the people, while the city was made a place of refuge for the soldiers. This is the fourth of the items which are inexplicable.

For more than ten days Elliot resided in the foreign factories, while but few ships and boats remained on the river, and he might have been seized without difficulty. He was constantly off his guard, sometimes purchasing articles in the market, and sometimes going and coming in a sedan. At this time a few daring fellows could have seized him, and carried him off as safely as a nut in a bag. But the governor would give his consent to such measure, because they were talking of peace, and therefore everything must be kept quiet. This is one of the things that are to be regretted.

On the tenth day the robbers had left the forts (which they had taken), and were rambling about through the neighboring villages, plundering the people and doing violence to the women. The alarm

gong was sounded; banners were raised; and tens of thousands from more than a hundred villages, were soon thickly surrounding the foreigners, scarcely one thousand in number. Two of their leaders, and eighty or ninety of the soldiers were killed, and many were wounded. Our people also had some wounded, but they were nothing to the host, which the more it was beaten the greater it became. The number of troops in the city at that time was more than ten thousand; and a body of five hundred new troops had just come into Fáhshán. Had orders been given for these combined forces to march, and an attack been made in front and rear in concert with the villagers, every one of the robbers must inevitably have been killed. The governor would not consent to this; but, on the contrary, at Elliot's request, sent out the prefect of the city to quiet the villagers. The righteous indignation of the people, kindled by the outrage and violence done to the innocent, urged them on to join battle with the foreigners, who were rescued only by the interference of the prefect, in dispersing the assembled host, and allowing the foreign troops to return to their ships. Since their first attack on the Bogue they never had an encounter like this. But this opportunity for destroying them is now lost. And this is the second of the two things which are to be regretted.

Since the rebellious foreigners commenced their annoyances, the conduct of traitorous natives has not been the only calamity that has befallen the country. For when Lin undertook his severe measures to prevent the traffic in opium and smuggling, then, the bow having been bent too suddenly and too far, the storm began, the thunders roaring and the winds blowing. He was detested alike by the soldiers, by the police, and by foreigners, whose means of subsistence he labored to destroy. Consequently, when the rebellious foreigners broke out in their opposition, multitudes of our people encouraged and supported them. These were the lawless, who had no concern for the government, anxious only that the foreigners might be victorious, and that opium might continue to be obtainable, so that they could again walk in their former courses. Moreover, the foreigners gave out, wherever they went, that they were enemies not to the people, but only to the officers of the government. Hence our traitorous people sought profit from them, foolishly believing all they said. Thus, when large rewards were offered for the seizure of foreigners, not one was caught for many months. And it was not until they had seized all the forts, and began to rob the villagers and ravish the women, that the people found out the deceit of the foreigners, and

wished to fight against them. Still supposing they were again to hem in the city, and that not long hence, there would be those who would open the gates and go out to receive the foreigners. Even among the natives of our soil, the number of good men is few; the number of the bad is great. This chills the heart, and is truly very much to be lamented.

Through the long peace enjoyed by our dynasty, the art of war has not been cultivated: the officers do not know the soldiers; the soldiers do not know each other. When the foreigners broke out in rebellion in Canton, every body was anxious to have troops called in from the neighboring provinces, supposing that, on the collection of a few hundreds or thousands, the foreigners would be easily exterminated and they relieved from fear. But ere the soldiers had reached Canton, reports of their robberies and of their quarrels with the police, came before them; and on their arrival here, the officers did not know the soldiers, nor the soldiers the officers. All was clamor and disorder. Though I knew in my heart that these soldiers were useless, I still hoped they would not wrangle and fight among themselves. But on the fifth day they began fighting with the native people and militia. The setting on fire of houses and killing of people became the order of the day, and innumerable were the dead corpses on the battle-ground. In the city, the people, flying from these calamities, were denounced as traitors, and plundered. Their shrieks were fearful, and more than once they were driven to desperation. Such a state of things was exceedingly to be lamented.

On the day the soldiers went out to plunder the foreign factories, several hundreds in number, having got their booty, they fled away, and on reaching the neighboring district, were taken up and sent back, they declaring that they had lost their way while giving chase to the foreign devils. With this excuse the governor and those with him were satisfied—nay they even rewarded them for their bravery! Running to the north in pursuit of the barbarians! Such are the soldiers of this age, collected from the several provinces. And from *these*, you may judge of those in the whole empire. For a thousand days the government has supported them, and now when once called out on service, see what they are worth! Nothing can be more deplorable than this condition of our army!

Note. The foregoing letter is without date, but must have been written soon after the British forces withdrew from the river. It is, in some minor parts, untrue, but still a valuable document. Two paragraphs, at the close of the letter, we have omitted, as they add nothing but a repetition of his own dolorous complaints, with other matters now out of date.

ART. VI. *Narrative of sergeant Campbell's capture, and treatment from the Chinese while at Hángchau fú.*

SERGEANT Campbell had been employed in the commissariat department at Chusan, since the 1st of February last; on the 24th of March he went to Tinghái to purchase some fowls; but after a fruitless search in the market, he was on the point of returning home, when a Chinese boy, whom he had employed for several months, told him if he went to the east gate, he would get plenty of them. He followed him; and on coming to the gate, the boy pointed to a house about a hundred yards further on. The boy ran into the house, at the door of which, sergeant Campbell waited for his return; but after standing at the place for ten minutes, and getting tired, was retracing his steps, when at the corner of the building he was attacked by twenty or thirty Chinese. Four of them he knocked down with his stick, but the odds were too great; he was felled to the ground by a stone that struck him over the left eye. They then sprung on him, tied his hands and feet, and filled his mouth with clay. Immediately after he was put into a bag, and two men carried him on a bamboo. Walking at a good pace for two hours, they brought him to a row of houses, on the southern part of the island. Here he was taken out of the bag, only to lose his left ear, which one of his captors cut off with a pair of scissors, upon which they put him back into the bag, and traveled as before till 10 o'clock P. M., when the Chinese ate their suppers. This done they took him up on their shoulders, and twenty minutes' walk brought them to a creek, where, through the sack, he could see several small junks. Into the hold of one of these he was lowered, and left three days and three nights, his clothes saturated with water, without a single morsel to eat, and supported entirely by some shamshoo and water which they gave him at long intervals.

On the fourth day after capture he was landed at a place, which he subsequently ascertained to be Chípí. There he was taken before the chief officer, who immediately ordered his hands and feet to be untied, and treated him very kindly, giving him an abundance to eat and drink. They kept him there but two hours, after which he was sent, under the escort of a petty officer and twelve soldiers, to the canal, and embarked in a flat-bottomed boat. This officer was most civil, and insisted on his eating in company with him.

The canal runs through a perfectly flat country, so they had no locks to get over; at times, whenever the bank of the canal would

allow it, the boats were tracked, but for the greatest part of the way the boatmen were obliged to scull. They stopped only to take in whatever provision the party required, and moved on day and night till the evening of the 30th, when they reached Hángchan fú.

Here sergeant Campbell was placed in a sedan; carried through the suburbs, a distance of nearly three miles, skirting the walls of the city for the greater part of the way; and at last reached an eminence about three quarters of a mile off, where he was lodged in a cell very little larger than the size of a cot. In this prison two officers came to see him; they put to him, through an interpreter, several questions, as to the strength of the army, navy, and the chief officers; and at last asked him if he was not an officer. He says that he met with very good treatment, although kept in close confinement.

On the 25th of May, they were released, and he saw for the first time his fellow-sufferers. It seems that it was the intention of the officers to hand them over to the British officers at Chápú, and they were embarked in boats, but when they got to the latter place, the expedition had left. They stopped there till the 30th, and then retracing their steps, arrived at Hángchau fú on the 2d June.

They again left Hángchau fú on the morning of the 7th, carried in sedans, and passed through the Chinese camp, which appeared a most extensive one, tents being visible as far as the eye could see; mere curiosity brought an immense crowd of soldiers and others to look at the fánkwei, but the Indians were those that amused the people most. As they formed a long line on either side of the procession, he observed that the soldiers had weapons of all kinds; matchlocks, spears, swords, cutlasses and bows and arrows, the latter of which they seemed to be very fond and very proud of; every tenth soldier had a matchlock. They reached the bank of a river (the Tsientáng), and crossed it at a place where it is two or three miles wide, but so shallow that the boatmen jumped into the water to propel the boats. They passed through a town about a mile long, and, resorting again to boats, moved down on a canal to Shauhing fú, where they arrived on the 10th. This city seemed to be as large as Hángchau fú; they did not enter it, but were under its walls for about three hours in the canal running round it.

Before getting to Yüyáu they passed a very curious rock, the echo of which repeated, as distinctly as possible, every word that was spoken. They passed Yuyáu on the 11th, reached Ningpò on the morning of the 12th, stopped there two hours, then proceeded down the river to Chinhái, and the same evening were handed over to captain Napier of H. M. brig Pelican.

ART. VII. *Journal of Occurrences: military operations in Kiáng-sú; report of the English being at the mouth of the Pei hó; death of one of the members of the cabinet; affairs at Chusan, Amoy, Hongkong, Macao, Canton; new king of Cochinchina; shipwrecked Japanese.*

SOMETIMES, when our allotted number of pages is nearly filled, near the end of the month, a variety of interesting matter comes to hand, all of which we would gladly lay before our readers at once. This we cannot always do; communications, however, shall seldom be postponed longer than a month. This remark being made, to prevent correspondents having the idea that their communications are not acceptable, we proceed to notice such incidents and occurrences as seem most likely to be interesting to our readers.

1. *Military operations in Kiáng-sú* commenced about the middle of last month. In expectation of these we gave, in recent numbers of the Repository, some topographical notices of that province and of A'nhwui, which once formed the great territory of Kiángnán. The southwestern portion of the province, which constitutes the department of Sungkiáng, has been the scene of these operations. The mouth of the Wúsung (Woosung) may be some sixty or eighty miles due north from Chápú. From hence the line of coast stretches away first to the northeast, and then turning in a sharp angle it runs to the northwest.

H. B. M.'s plenipotentiary, it will be remembered, left Hongkong on the 13th ultimo; he passed Amoy, after touching there for a few hours, on the 15th; and having spent a day or so at Chusan, left that place about noon on the 19th. Several British ships of war, 25 transports, and the French frigate *Erigone*, were then at anchor in the outer harbor. The *Queen* passed along the western shores of Kintáng, running against a strong current; some islands, called we believe the Seven Sisters, were soon visible off on the left, marking the entrance to Hángchau fú up the river Tsientáng; and ere long the Rugged islands were in sight, abreast of which she anchored for the night. The next day, the 20th, moving on at an early hour, she passed the *Belleisle*, *Vixen*, and some other ships, lying off the mouth of the Great river (the Yángtsz' kiáng); the *Plover* (lately called the *Bentinck*) was lying among them, and pointed out the dangerous rock, which recently all but irreparably destroyed the *Ariadne*. In an hour or two, as she moved on, the low unvaried plain of Kiáng-sú was visible from her deck. Clusters of trees, surrounding each little hamlet along the south bank of the river, rendered perceptible the position of the land. Advancing a little further, and a dry bank, on her right, showed an outline of a part of the island of Tsungming; and in an hour or two trees on all side were visible. At sunset the *Queen* anchored among the shipping off the mouth of the Wúsung river, distant more than half a mile from the shore. From this place was issued a

CIRCULAR TO H. B. M.'S. SUBJECTS IN CHINA.

"The gratifying duty of announcing further highly important successes of her majesty's combined forces, again devolves on H. M. plenipotentiary in China. After the necessary delay in destroying the batteries, magazines, founderies, barracks, and other public buildings, as well as the ordnance, arms, and ammunition, captured at Chápú, the troops were re-embarked, and the expedition finally quitted that port on the 23d of May, and arrived on the 29th off the Rugged islands, where it remained until the 13th of June, on which day it crossed the Bar, which had been previously surveyed and buoyed off, into the Yángtsz' kiáng river, to the point where the river is joined by the Wúsung.

"At this point the Chinese authorities had erected immense lines of works, to de-

tend the entrances of both rivers, and seem to have been so confident of their ability to repel us, that they permitted a very close *reconnaissance* to be made in two of the small steamers by their excellencies the naval and military commanders in chief on the 14th inst.; and even cheered and encouraged the boats which were sent in the same night to lay down buoys to guide the ships of war to their allotted positions of attack.

"At daylight, on the morning of the 16th, the squadron weighed anchor, and proceeded to take up their respective stations, which was scarcely done when the batteries opened, and the cannonade on both sides was extremely heavy and unceasing for about two hours; that of the Chinese then began to slacken, and the seamen and marines were landed at once, under the fire from the ships, and drove the enemy out of the batteries before the troops could be disembarked and formed for advancing.

"Two hundred and fifty-three guns (42 of them brass) were taken in the batteries, most of them of heavy calibre, and upwards of eleven feet long. The whole were mounted on pivot carriages of new and efficient construction, and it was likewise observed that they were fitted with bamboo sights.

"The casualties in the naval arm of the expedition amounted to two killed and twenty-five wounded, but the land forces had not a man touched. It appears almost miraculous that the casualties should not have been much greater, considering how well the Chinese served their guns. The *Blonde* frigate had 14 shot in her hull, the *Sesostris* steamer 11, and all the ships engaged more or less. The loss on the part of the enemy is supposed to have been about 80 killed, and a proportionate number wounded. On the 17th of June some of the lighter vessels of the squadron advanced up the *Wúsung* river, and found a deserted battery, mounting 55 guns, of which 17 were brass.

"On the 19th, two more batteries close to the city of *Shánghái*, opened their guns on the advanced division of the light squadron, but on receiving a couple of broadsides, the Chinese fled, and the batteries, which contained 48 guns (17 of them brass) were instantly occupied, and the troops took possession of the city, where the public buildings were destroyed, and the extensive government granaries given to the people.

"His excellency the admiral proceeded up the river *Wúsung* with two of the small iron steamers on the 20th inst., about 50 miles beyond the city of *Shánghái*, and in this *reconnaissance* two additional field works each mounting four heavy guns, were taken and destroyed; bringing the total of ordnance captured in these operations up to the astonishing number of 364, of which 76 are of brass, and chiefly large handsome guns; many of the brass guns have got devices showing that they have been cast lately; several of them have Chinese characters signifying 'the tamer and subduer of the barbarians,' and one particularly large one is dignified by the title of the 'Barbarian.'

"The Chinese high officers and troops are supposed to have fled in the direction of the cities of *Súchau*, *Hángchau fú*, and *Nanking*. The same high authorities have made another indirect attempt to retard active operations, by an avowed wish to treat, and have also given a satisfactory proof of their anxiety to conciliate by the release of 16 of H. M.'s subjects (European and natives of India) who had been kidnapped; but as the overtures were not grounded on the only basis on which they can be listened to, they were met by an intimation to that effect.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.

"Dated on board the steam frigate *Queen*, in the *Yángtsz'* *kiáng* river (off *Wúsung*) the 24th day of June, 1842.

(Signed)

"HENRY POTTINGER, H. M. Plenipotentiary."

We very much regret that it is not at present in our power to give maps of the places we have to describe. The coast, or southeasterly bank of the Great river, at the place we are now speaking of, runs nearly from the north-west to the southeast, and the river which flows down from beyond *Shánghái* is represented as cutting this line of coast nearly at right angles. The river which flows by *Shánghái*, is not the *Wúsung*, which is a small stream till it reaches this larger one near its mouth, and gives to it its name. On this larger river the steamers, carrying admiral sir William Parker, proceed-

ed more than sixty miles—a direct distance of about 45 miles. At a distance of 36 miles up, the river is called the 大黃埔 *Tà-huáng pú*, “the Great yellow anchorage,” having 13 fathoms of water

Of Wúsung we know nothing, except of its long line of mud batteries, now demolished. These extend a considerable distance on both sides of the river, but chiefly on the north, where the Cornwallis, Blonde, Modeste, Clio, Columbine, &c., took up their respective positions. In some of our letters, mention is made of “war-junks,” flying before the steamers.

Shānghái (上海) stands in a direct line of seven miles from the mouth of the river. The advance upon it was made by a combined force, on the 19th. Colonel Montgomerie commanded the marching party. After a moment's resistance, and before the general had landed, the garrison fled, leaving the British masters of the city. It was here, on Wednesday the 22d, that sir Henry, accompanied by lord Saltoun, rejoined the naval and military commanders-in-chief. The wall is $3\frac{3}{4}$ miles in extent; that of Ningpo is $5\frac{1}{4}$; but its suburbs are more extensive than those of Ningpo. The gardens of the *Chinghwáng miáu*, in which sir Hugh and three regiments were quartered, are extensive, and built in good style. There were many summer and grotto-houses, separated by arms of the garden-pool, affording quarters for the soldiers. Gardens are very generally attached to houses, excepting the meanest and poorest, and afford excellent fruit. In one of the houses a very extensive library was found, having more than thirty book-cases. As in other cities, the pawnbroker's shops were numerous and extensive; and in one of them the artillery was quartered. Many had been broken open, and robbed by the mob. But almost all the houses and shops were shut up. Provisions were abundant and good. Hamlets of two or three houses, or single farmsteads, surrounded each by a fence, diversify the landscape around Shānghái and Wúsung. The ground is entirely flat, producing cotton, rice, &c.; and it was not till the steamers had gone a considerable distance above the city, that high land appeared. The country was very fertile, but did not show signs of a very high degree of population. In going up the river, the distinct separation of the layers of deposited soil strongly reminded those who had been in Egypt, of the Nile. Numbers of ancient tombs, on one side, have been undermined by the river encroaching on the bank; and sometimes held together, projecting unsupported; and at other times they have crumbled to pieces on the shore.

2. *The British forces arrived off the mouth of Pei hó* (so a report from Canton states) on the 10th instant, and immediately occupied four of the forts, and put forth a proclamation, declaring that they had not come to possess themselves of the territory of the Chinese, or to fight with the people, but only desired to see the emperor face to face, and hold with him a conference on matters of great importance. This report assumes to be founded on a dispatch from the General Council of State, addressed to the governor of Canton, and received by him on the morning of the 23d. It is added that, the emperor, who on account of the war this year had not taken his departure to the north at the usual time in the fourth month, set off for Je hó on the 11th; and that the British said they occupied the forts only temporarily, in order to give rest to their troops after their long detention on board ship; and that they had killed some of the Chinese troops, because the officers opposed their entrance into the forts. We cannot vouch for the correctness of this report, though we are inclined to regard it as substantially correct.

3. *The third member of the cabinet, Wáng Ting*, is dead, and the emperor has published a long edict on the occasion, deploring his loss, setting forth the merits of the aged minister, &c.

1. *At Chusan* affairs were becoming, at the commencement of this month,

more settled. Kidnapping, since the release of sergeant Campbell and others by the imperial commissioners, recommended thereto by P'ipú, was apparently at an end. The tide of population was again rising, and the general aspect of things was improving. Our dates are to about the 10th of July.

5. *At Amoy*, a like state of things existed, and at a somewhat later date. The rumors of an attack were dying away, or rather had ceased.

6. *Hongkong* continues slowly to improve. About the middle of the month, a foul report of blockade and an attack, by a combination of volunteers and imperial forces, created some uneasiness among the better classes of native residents; but the excursion of admiral Cochrane and general Burrell, with a small squadron to Whampoa, checked the reports and quieted the people.

7. *Canton* has recently exhibited perhaps more than usual commercial activity. Some of the factories are being repaired; and a petition to the governor, numerous signed by the foreign merchants, has been, or is about to be presented, the object of which is to ask for permission to bring their families to Canton to reside. Hong-merchants and linguists have been sent for, who set off on the 25th, to go to Chekiáng, to aid in carrying on the diplomacy at the north!

8. *Macao*, during this month and the last, has been the scene of some changes. H. E. the governor, as we learn from a correspondent of the Friend of China, having been blamed for certain acts by the court of Lisbon, tendered his resignation to the senate, but they begged him not rashly to relinquish his office. The next day, the troops paraded themselves in the square before the Senate house, demanding an assembly of the citizens at large, to induce the governor to resume his office. The third day, June 25th, at a general assembly of the senate and the people, and by their united request the governor was induced to resume his station, and was immediately escorted to the palace, attended by the authorities and notables of the place.

A decretal of the queen of Portugal, dated Lisbon, Feb. 10th, 1842, having reached Macao, the senate, in conformity with its orders, issued a public programme to the citizens, appointing the 10th inst. as the day for subscribing to the constitution of April, 1826, which was henceforth to be the fundamental law in the dominions of the Portuguese monarchy. A Te Deum was sung in the cathedral, at which all the ecclesiastical, civil and military authorities assisted, and the houses in the place were generally illuminated in the evening of that and the two succeeding days.

9. *Cochinchina*. "The imperial will is received, ordaining the heir apparent, *Yuenfusiuén*, king of Cochinchina. And all the requisite papers for the investiture, Páu Tsing, the commissioner of justice in Kwángsí, is appointed to bear thither in due form. Let other particulars be done according to the memorial." On inquiry we find that Mingming died early this, or late last year; but the particulars of his death and of the succession we have not been able to obtain.

10. *Eight shipwrecked Japanese* arrived in the Gitana at Macao during this month from Manila. They were driven ashore on the Samar isles, at the southeast of Luçonia, after being tempest tost for about 150 days between Yedo, near where they last saw land, and that shore. They are from that part of the principality of Mutsu lying in the northern part of Nippon called Shendai, about 180 miles northeast of Yedo, and were bound to the capital with a cargo of rice. On coming down the coast and rounding cape King, they met a northeaster, and were blown off. They say that the famine experienced in that part of the empire about four years ago was dreadful in the extreme; people were obliged to eat the albumen of trees, in short whatever they could find of nature. The name of the vessel was *Kwanjosu*, and the captain's name is Zhmiske, and the supercargo's Chioziore,





Date Due

Ap 19 '45

Ap 27 '45

F 4 '46





